

## Report Back on Palestine Solidarity Encampment at Drexel University

May 21, 2024

Report back on current encampment in solidarity with Palestine at Drexel University in so-called Philadelphia, PA. Originally posted to *Philly Anti-Capitalist*.

photo: [Unicorn Riot on Mastodon](#)

At approximately 7pm on Saturday May 18th, and one day before the birthday of Malcolm X, a Nakba Day rally and march ended in protestors and students spontaneously setting up an encampment at Drexel University, at Academic Quadrangle. Immediately, more than a hundred protestors locked arms to defend the students. This was the [second pro-Palestine protest in two days](#). Friday's action having ended in several violent arrests by the Philly Pig Department (PPD) in a similar attempt to occupy a space.

Shortly after, the resilient encampment defenders began jotting down phone numbers (on their arms) for attorneys, civil rights groups, etc. Of course, PPD wasted no time calling in reinforcements by the barn-load, a few of them already decked out in riot gear,

reminiscent of the genocidal IDF. It should then come as no surprise to learn that Amerikkkan cops receive training from their Zionist buddies in Isntreal.

As the sun went down, the pigs moved in. Several encampment defenders and even legal observers were threatened with a taser by an angry member of Philly's "finest"; one of his partners yanked him backward before he pulled the trigger. There were several other minor altercations as well.

One can't help but notice how the violence at protests and encampments begin and end solely with the brownshirt jackboots of the State. From capitalist cops to so-called "proletarian cops," the role of all law enforcement has been the protection of private property and defense of genocide and colonialist supremacy since the days of Amerikkkan runaway slave patrols.

At the time of writing this, the encampment is ongoing and needs support. [Philly Palestine Coalition on Instagram](#) will be providing updates for mutual aid, jail support, etc.

To fellow anarchists, we urge you more than anyone to show up. Bring food, water, clothes, zines, but more importantly, bring YOURSELVES. Support our comrades in the streets and the

encampments. In order to live in a better world, we need to create a better world. No party will save us or bring the revolution. As one protestor continuously remarked, "We protect us."

Anarchy is forever. Death to the zionist state. From the sea to the river, Palestine will live forever.

## Banner Drop in Detroit, MI Against "Genocide Joe"

May 20, 2024

Report on banner drop in so-called Detroit, MI. Originally posted to *Unsalted Couter-Info*.

Michigan said fuck no to Genocide Joe, as multiple activities across Detroit today show people's disgust with Joe's invitation to Michigan to be presented with an award at the NAACP's "Fight for Freedom Fund Dinner."

The NAACP does not represent the intertwined struggles of Black and Palestinian liberation. Thousands more Palestinians have been killed since Biden's last visit in March. People of good conscience can't allow him to conduct business as usual when his business is genocide. Fuck U Genocide Joe.

*This post as been slighted edited for readability.*

# Eight Days for Gaza: A Report on the Occupation and Defense of the Portland State University Library

May 19, 2024

A day-by-day reflection and account of a recent campus occupation in solidarity with Palestine at Portland State University (PSU), in Portland, Oregon. Social media posts and photo from [Alissa Azar on Mastodon](#).

## Day 1 - April 25 2024

The call went out around 3pm, Thursday the 25th, on a couple local Instagram pages. A couple hours later, a dozen or so people were mobilized at the park blocks, setting up tarps and tents. For those unfamiliar with the park blocks, they are Portland State's university's version of the "quad," where people go to chill and smoke weed. A strip of nature bisects the campus, and its a nice spot to hang out. I thought it was also under the jurisdiction of the park rangers, as it is a public park.

The park rangers came by and were heckled. The campus police came by and they received a heavy dose of heckling as well. This strategy of being assertive with the police from the get-go served the encampment well.

As the sun set, more folks arrived and built up some barricades on SW Harrison Ave. Both the east and west sides of the park were rendered inaccessible to vehicles, fairly quickly. More and more people arrived as the night went on, probably culminating around 10pm or so with maybe 50 people. Some folks left, convinced that the next night was already assured. Some of protesters stayed.

At 1:20am, the Portland police arrived en masse from the northern direction along the park blocks, silently with a brigade of about 25 cop cars and 40 cops. The camp was not strong at this point. Only about 15 demonstrators were there at the time. The Portland Police Bureau (PPB) came in with a strong personnel and equipment ratio and people were not prepared. The camp dispersed.

## Day 2 - April 26 2024

On Friday, a call went out on social media again, for people to come back and re-establish the camp. By 1pm, half-dozen people were there, with a tent and a couple tarps. People quickly arrived, perhaps invigorated by the heavy-handed sweep the night before. The president also "paused" ties with Boeing, which turned out to be bullshit. So people got to protesting.

More people came than on Thursday. The cops made their move early, around 3pm bringing roughly 12 riot cops to tear down the tarps for being "unauthorized structures" or something.

People did not like the cops. The crowd linked arms at the north edge of the encampment on Harrison Ave. There was chanting and yelling. People yelled at the cops, "Why are you here?" Also cries of ACAB, FTP, and Free Palestine rang out. Finally the protesters moved all their shit onto the library steps, which appeased the cops because it was PSU university property and technically the campus police were supposed to deal with that, not PPB.

A police retreat invigorated the crowd again, which began building up the barricades in their new space. Despite being a smaller area, the library portico provided some tactical advantages. Now the protesters had the high ground. After a couple hours of barricade building, the library portico was sealed-off to the outside, giving demonstrators some privacy. There

was some redecorating that night.

## Day 3 - April 27 2024

Early Saturday morning, maybe 5am, the first truck arrived for the Portland Saturday market. The other vendors soon arrived and began setting up for the massive weekly gathering, which was welcomed by those at the encampment. Protesters also set up a booth and participated, as well as shopped for wares along the park blocks.

The library was renamed "[Refaat Alareer Library](#)." Saturday night, the vibes were immaculate. People redecorated multiple floors of the library windows, and the barricades received some serious reinforcements. There was some banjo or something, which I didn't care for but people were having a lot of fun so whatevs. More people, maybe 30, stayed the night.

## Day 4 - April 28 2024

On Sunday people organized a party with lots of supporters coming by and having fun. Protesters even got a letter from Mumia-Abu-Jamal.

## Day 5 - April 29 2024

The big day. Even more nighttime redecorating and Ann Cudd [President of Portland State University (PSU)] decides to screw everyone. She tells protesters to leave the portico. The campus police came by and dissed the barricade. People did not respond to this threat. A rally had been planned for Monday at 4pm, and folks had been anticipating this for days. It was even bigger than anyone expected. Multiple groups showed out, mobilizing about maybe 400 people around the library at 5pm. The campus police could only watch from a distance as waves of protestors moved, some in formation, some not, around the



Jailhouse Lawyers Speak · May 19

"America is just as much a colonial power as England ever was. America is just as much a colonial power as France ever was. In fact, America is more so a colonial power than they because she's a hypocritical colonial power behind it." Malcolm X aka Omowale - El-Hajj Malik Shabazz



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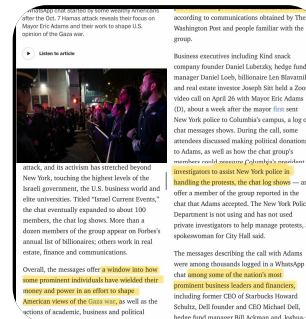


Rania Khalek  
@RaniaKhalek · May 17

A group of pro-Israel billionaires have a WhatsApp group where they coordinate how to influence the US response to October 7, including pressuring Eric Adams to use the NYPD against Columbia students.

All this time it was Eric Adams who was in bed with outside agitators.

The irony.



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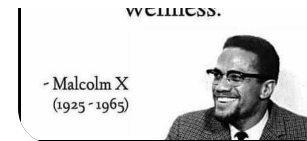


Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -  
@JailLawSpeak · May 19

Happy 99th Birthday Malcolm X aka Omowale aka El-Hajj Malik Shabazz!

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak 🙏

"we" even illness becomes



1 5 17 677



Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -  
@JailLawSpeak · May 19

The person and who he was!

Malcolm X aka Omowale aka El-Hajj Malik Shabazz!

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak 🙏



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**The Illusion of Electoral Politics from Palestine to Black America - Hood Communist**  
Are we to believe the entire thrust of Palestine's liberation, or Black America's uprising from slavery rests on the power of a vote?

1 26 43 3K

**The\_Final\_Straw**  
@thefinalstrawradio@chaos:.  
@StrawFinal · May 19

We're joined by Chloe Moore of Southside Community Farm to talk about the soil they've enriched, the communities they serve, and how listeners can support this Black-led community farm in Asheville



1 15 11 1K

**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**  
@JailLawSpeak · May 20

**UNSPOKEN FACT:** When prisoners do good charity work as a collective from prison under the approval of prisoncrats, the prisoncrats get all the praise from the media and public for the charity!  
Can't give a hint that it is good ppl in jails and prisons  
#burntheprisons

0 6 7 512

**Black Alliance for Peace**  
@Blacks4Peace · May 19

BAP Haitian Americas team member  
Jemima Pierre on 'How The West Underdeveloped Haiti' where she

explores how the West underdeveloped Haiti, from French colonial looting and debt slavery to US invasions and imperialism.



**How The West Underdeveloped Haiti**  
What are the roots of Haiti's prolonged crisis? Haitian-American scholar Jemima Pierre takes us through the history of how the West underdeveloped the countr...

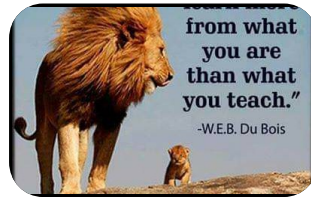
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**Indigenous**  
@AmericanIndian8 · May 20

..@POTUS it's time to  
#FreeLeonardPeltier  
@VP @SecDebHaaland  
@WHCOS @PressSec  
#INDIGENOUS #TAIRP

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**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**  
@JailLawSpeak · May 20



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**Historic Vids**  
@historyinmemes · May 18

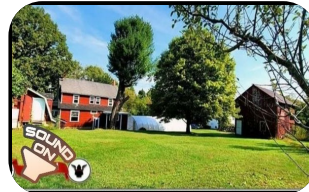
**Sister Rosetta Tharpe was an American singer and guitarist who gained popularity in the 1930s and 1940s with her unique blend of spiritual lyrics and electric guitar.**

292 5K 19K 1M

**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**

**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak · May 20**

JLS primarily focused on institutional building, consolidating our gains, and establishing a strong foundation for the next phase. Our next objective is to establish another non-traditional housing for JL & activists, followed by the launch of the national JLS Legal Center



1 0 3 519

**pdx law grrrl**  
@pdxlawgrrrl · May 19

Colorado lawmakers pass first-in-nation mandate for voting centers in jails. "Our system has a really long history of not including people of color, low-income people, and people involved in our criminal justice system. That's what we're trying to fix."



**Colorado Lawmakers Pass First-in-Nation Mandate for Voting Centers in Jails - Borts**  
Scott Deno, who oversees Colorado's largest jail, says he takes seriously his role in helping people vote if an election rolls around while they're under his custody. His jail, in... Read More

2 82 177 15K

**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**  
@JailLawSpeak · May 20

2024 relevant today! Can anyone say that he has lied about this?

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**Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -**

library.

The school had actually closed the library early at noon. So people broke in. One door got smashed, and the demonstrators flooded in, bringing their supplies, and methodically moving up the floors to secure the building. The campus police brought a final show of force, two cop cars. They were chased off within 15 seconds.

One by one the entrances, stairwells, and elevators are barricaded. Food and drink were liberated from their machines and people had an intifada feast. At 11:30pm, the mayor, DA, school president, and chief of police gathered for a live press conference. They threatened the protesters. People did not leave. Instead, they had a movie night.

## Day 6 - April 30 2024

It is Tuesday now, and school is canceled. Look at folks now. Protesters are having teach-ins at the library. Cafe Intifada (the repurposed library coffee shop) is operating full service. Some of our houseless neighbors from the PSU community are finally getting shelter and care in the library for the first time in years.

Word spread about the occupation and soon 100 people are here. People are getting thank yous from kids in Gaza. Students came into the library and studied just like any other day.

The campus police came by and gave someone a piece of paper full of misspellings to serve as a dispersal order or trespass or something - IDK, *never saw the fucking paper.*

Apparently some students decided they were the "leaders" of the occupation. They made an Instagram page and spread rumors that other protesters were undercover cops. The two people running the "Refaat Alareer Library" (formerly occupypsu4palestine) Instagram page are not representative of the

protest and they are not to be trusted. They made multiple false statements that led to people getting hurt. Fuck them.

These "leaders" apparently negotiated with the president unbeknownst to most. I don't know why these kids thought they could speak for anyone, especially while spreading rumors that protesters (the people actually holding it down, putting themselves on the line every night) were police. What the hell, guys?

An email went out to the PSU community that the PPB would be coming in to deal with the "incident." This immediately garnered push back from multiple student and faculty organizations because everyone hates cops.

## Day 7 - May 1 2024

Wednesday, May Day, was wild. Things started off well enough with the May Day actions downtown. Starbucks got smashed, woo-hoo. A few hundred people were at the library. Some folks came back from a May Day march and apparently had a scuffle with the self-appointed "security." Fuck the self-appointed door people. They thought they could keep folks (again, the people who were actually there night after night defending the camp) out of the library at their discretion. I don't even know who these door people fuckers were, but that was not okay behavior.

What do you think the point of black bloc is? You don't get to personally identify everyone coming into the library. This is a protest, not a jail. Anyways. The randos who thought they were in charge of the library entrance kept refusing access to the library and so only 30 people were there that night, and many knew that the police were coming in. Too bad there weren't more protesters at the library. Thanks a lot, door people.

## Day 8 - May 2 2024

The police arrived at 6am and

began their operation. They brought maybe, 120 PPB officers, and 50 state troopers. There were a lot of cops. At 6:30am the pigs began arresting homeless people outside the library.

At about 7:20am, a six man SWAT crew used some chainsaws to get into the north side fire escape. They climbed up to the fifth floor. They either busted down that weak-ass barricade into the book stacks area or went up to the roof and then took the south side fire escape down. Once they cleared the fifth floor, they got into the elevators and worked their way down, sweeping floor by floor.

When the cops got to the second floor about 8am, people decided to run. A triple line diagonal cross formation worked to maximum effectiveness. The element of surprise, along with excellent route-running, resulted in an almost-clean escape. One protestor got laid out by a cop, and it was fucked. We all saw it on the news.

Now the crowd was arriving. PSU made many tactical errors throughout the occupation, mainly refusing to negotiate with the group. The school didn't cancel class until right before school started. PSU is a commuter school, and half the students were already on the way to campus. In addition, the school's alert system had made an otherwise minor typo, that "Thursday, May 1st," school was canceled. Of course, Thursday was not May 1st. And May 1st had already happened. Many students brushed the email alert off, thinking it was a glitch or repeat from the day before. So, hundreds of people were there in the park at 9am.

PPB tried to get a few arrestees back to the precinct but were met with a crowd of protestors blocking the paddy wagon. A struggle for control of Broadway Ave ensued. About 20 state troopers escorted the paddy wagons onto the 405 on-ramp in an epic battle. They had to circle around on the highway, and go 3 extra miles, just to get back to their precinct a mere 8 blocks from

the PSU campus.

Later in the day, people overwhelmed the police and drove them out. Occupation defenders threw shit at them and yelled at them and backed them into the basketball arena at 5:09pm. Then, within seconds, people retook the library. Within ten minutes the intersection of Park and Harrison was again blocked off, and protesters were back in the library.

At this point, a self-appointed "leader" made an extremely curious tactical decision. "We are going to leave and lock the door," they told me. This didn't make any sense, as people had just stormed the library, the home of the occupation. So....yeah, weird move. The "leader" corralled people out of the building, but not everyone, and so more people got arrested as the cops came back to the library a second time, unimpeded.

Don't listen to self-appointed leaders that tell you to stop protesting. Tell them to shut up. Another couple of self-appointed leaders led people on a march to nowhere and that was the end of the protest.

## Notes

Whoever made the Instagram page for the protest and then spread rumors about people, fuck you.

The occupation was started by students. Folks tried their best to keep each other safe. Demonstrators didn't have any leaders. The peace police came to the occupation and tried to physically fight protesters. They hated the library takeover, and said it was, "Not for Palestine." Kids in Gaza said otherwise, thanking folks personally for taking action. Don't listen to the peace police. Do the right thing. Of course the peace police, all Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL) members, also exploited the protest to push their own clout-chasing agenda.

Here's to people doing it again sometime soon, maybe at the ICE building? Land Back from Turtle

Island to Palestine.

## Protester Blockades the Mountain Valley Pipeline Access Road to Poor Mountain, Asks "Which Side Are You On?"

May 19, 2024

**Action report from Appalachians Against Pipelines on blockade against the Mountain Valley Pipeline. To read a recent interview about the ongoing campaign, go [here](#).**

Early this morning, a pipeline fighter going by the name Mullein locked themselves to barrels blockading Honeysuckle Rd, which provides access to the Mountain Valley Pipeline easement. This protest, along with many prior, is located on Poor Mountain, where the Yellow Finch Treesits protected some of the last standing trees in the MVP's path for two and a half years from 2018-2021. About a month ago, a similar action took place at this same location. Two grandparents had locked themselves to a large wooden opossum, stopping work for the day.

"Today, as I sit in the road on so-called Poor Mountain, it is the day after Nakba Day," stated Mullein. "Today, through this ongoing genocide, Palestinians have been resisting colonization for over 76 years. MVP claims that this pipeline would supply fracked gas to various U.S. military locations including the Pentagon and the Radford Army Ammunition Plant, which is operated by BAE systems, a weapons company supplying weapons to "Israel" during their genocidal campaign. The destruction of land and lifeways is interconnected, from Turtle Island to Palestine. The interlocking systems of colonization and capitalism must end for life to continue. As a settler here, these systems have disconnected me from land, from others, from myself.



"I'm sitting locked to two barrels today because I see no choice but to rebel against these systems in any small way I can. To choose to fight on the side of the mountains, the rivers, the critters, and the people. Against the extraction, empires, and all death-making institutions. Which side are you on?"

In late April, MVP requested permission from FERC to place the pipeline in service (despite the low percentage of final restoration completed along the route and MVP's failure to comply with safety requirements). MVP asked FERC to grant this permission by 5/23/24 — exactly one week from today.

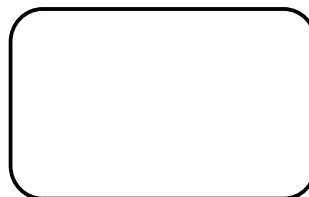
The Mountain Valley Pipeline is a 42-inch diameter fracked gas pipeline slated to cross at least 300 miles of Appalachia. In June 2023, congress passed a law to fast track the MVP, despite the pipeline's long history of environmental violations and failure to hold on to key permits. Recently, the Virginia Department of Environmental Quality cited Mountain Valley Pipeline for over a dozen violations and MVP's hydrostatic tests failed resulting in a rupture in the section at Bent Mountain. Today, the Mountain Valley Pipeline is over budget by more than \$4 billion and is 6 years behind schedule.

## Texas Governor Pardons and Frees Far-Right Gunman Who Killed Black Lives Matter Protester

May 18, 2024

On May 16th, the Trump aligned governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, [pardoned and freed from prison Daniel Perry](#), an [Uber driver and active-duty soldier at Fort Hood](#) who shot and killed Garret Foster, himself an Air Force veteran, in

<https://crimethinc.com/Columbia20/>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu · Apr 30

If you are participating in protests, encampments, or occupations, you should understand how to dress to minimize your risk factors.

Most importantly—if you wish to protect your privacy, you will need an outfit that conceals your identifying features. You should change into it in a location that is not under surveillance, wear it for the entire duration of the activity, then change out of it in a location that is also not surveilled. You should not be seen with any elements of the outfit before or after.

Consider reading these short instructional guides:

Fashion Tips for the Brave

<https://crimethinc.com/fashiontips>

The Femme's Guide to Riot Fashion

<https://crimethinc.com/riotfemme>



Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -  
@JailLawSpeak · Jul 16

Mutual Aid can be directed directly towards the inside people led Prisoners Human Rights and Jailhouse Lawyers networks/projects by cash app \$ arebelsworld or Venmo @ arebelsworld



7 74 119

Bianca  
@BiancaTylek · May 21

Today, Congress held a hearing about prison labor's legacy in chattel slavery. Witnesses gave well-researched testimony about the history and realities of prison slavery.

But Sen. Kennedy wants us to stop the "emotion" when talking about the "complex" issue of ending slavery.

15 71 153 8K

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -  
@JailLawSpeak · May 21

FYI: The DOJ > Department of Justice is the police.

Its an arm of the fascist machinery.

1 5 10 764

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -  
@JailLawSpeak · May 20

You can give mutual aid towards JLS projects at

Or cashapp \$arebelsworld or venmo @ arebelsworld

[ For other ways to give mutual aid or grants please email us directly [jailhouselawyersspeak@protonmail.com](mailto:jailhouselawyersspeak@protonmail.com) ]

Application:

It's a wrap.....  
@3rdstringW · May 19

Sounds like it's only a handful that went against their parent's advice and actually protested anyway.

Morehouse's president said he would shut down the commencement if the grads get disruptive.



10 49 25 99K

Angelo Giuliano  
安德龙  
@angeloinchina · May 21

While you were having a coffee this morning and enjoying the day, this is what the Zionists did in Rafah. Most of us support this indirectly through the taxes we pay and the support of our governments and by purchasing products from Multinational corporations that support this genocidal regime. If you don't oppose this shit you might be part of the problem. At some point too much silence becomes complicity.

3K 42K 58K 2M

Jailhouse Lawyers Speak -  
@JailLawSpeak · May 21

There is no such thing as "No one is above the law."

Power dictates law and how it's going to be applied.

Sincerely,  
Jailhouse Lawyers Speak

1 6 16 445

#FreeMumia  
@HalfAtlanta · May 20

The Illusion of Electoral Politics from Palestine to Black America



## PD Officer Fired Gun Inside Columbia's Hamilton Hall, Manhattan Alvin Bragg Confirms

Manhattan District Attorney's Office told THE CITY that their police accountability review of the shooting that happened as police cleared out campus protesters. No one at the office said.

CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • May 2

We've prepared a zine version of our text "Defending the Camp," describing the experiences of participants in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Gaza solidarity encampment.

<https://crimethinc.com/zines/defence-the-camp>

Please print these out and share them!

You can find over 100 more zines on a variety of subjects in our zine archive.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • May 1

Happy May Day! 🇺🇸🇫🇷🇩🇪

For a short history of this day of celebration and resistance across a century and a half:

<https://crimethinc.com/MayDayHist>



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • May 1

For May Day, we have translated part of a text published today in Russian by the anarchist project akrateia.info.

"Mayday is an international distress signal in radio communications, similar to the SOS signal in telegraph communications. This is an approximation of the French phrase 'm'aidez', a shortened version of the phrase 'venez m'aider' (meaning 'come to my aid,' 'help me'). On this day, we offer to come to each other's aid (what Peter Kropotkin called 'mutual aid')."

"We appeal to you: wherever you are—under fire, in a hospital, in prison, in a foreign country, trying to find a way to earn money, in your native country where you risk becoming a victim of torture by the authorities—we want to remind you that you are not alone. We want to be with you in spirit, no matter how difficult it may be right now."

"Anarchism never died. Throughout the bloody history of the 20th century, it survived and developed. If you are reading these lines, that means you are also involved in our great cause. How many times have anarchist periodicals addressed their readers on May 1? How many times have anarchists feared that anarchism might die and totalitarian countries and fascists would win?"

"We will continue, as our predecessors did. We will not give up because we are coming to help each other."



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • May 1

### Defending the Camp

A Report from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign Gaza Solidarity Encampment

<https://crimethinc.com/UIUC>

All around the United States and now in Canada, Australia, and several European cities, students have established encampments protesting the bloodshed taking place in Gaza. Over the past few days, more than a thousand people have been arrested in police raids targeting these encampments. Yet despite the high-profile assaults on Columbia University and other occupations, many encampments have managed to stand their ground, even in the face of repeated police

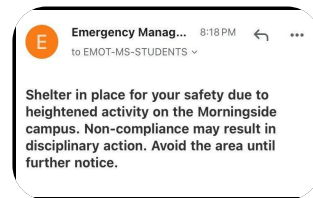
attacks. In this report, participants in the Gaza solidarity protest encampment at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign recount their experiences learning to hold their ground.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • May 1

In bringing in thousands of police with batons, shields, less-lethal grenades, and chemical weapons to brutalize student protesters, the administration of Columbia University shows that all of its rhetoric about "student safety" is mendacious. Like the other university administrations around the country that have done the same thing, they are simply pursuing profit and authoritarian control.

If we want people in Palestine, students in the United States, or anyone else to be safe, it's up to us.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@CrimethInc@todon.eu • May 1

Thousands upon thousands of police are surrounding Columbia University and raiding the building occupation there now, determined to crush the movement in solidarity with those experiencing genocide in Gaza.

Every time a mercenary puts on an NYPD uniform, selling their capacity to inflict violence to the highest bidder, they are committing treason against humanity.

We salute the courage of those occupying the university. This struggle is far from over.

Background on the movement at Columbia:

2020 in Austin, Texas, during a Black Lives Matter demonstration following the police murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

Foster, who at the time of his death was open carrying an AK-47, legal under Texas law, was taking part in a Black Lives Matter march alongside his fiancée, who he was pushing in a wheelchair. Perry who was also armed, drove his vehicle through a red light and into a group of protesters, before shooting his revolver through his car window, killing Foster. Perry was later found guilty for the murder of Foster by a jury, but had yet to be sentenced at the time of his pardoning.

According to the Texas Tribune:

Perry's attorneys said at trial Foster raised his rifle, prompting Perry to shoot Foster five times through his car window with his handgun. Witnesses said Foster did not raise his rifle." According to the Daily Dot, "Several witnesses told police that Foster, who was pushing his disabled girlfriend's wheelchair in the march, did not aim the AK-47 he was legally carrying at Perry's car."

As the libertarian leaning Reason pointed out:

Perry himself...told law enforcement that he was not [acting in self-defense]. "I believe he was going to aim at me," he said. "I didn't want to give him a chance to aim at me." But that is not a self-defense justification...

A look into Perry's online footprint reveals him to be a far-Right Trump supporter who for years made racist comments, pushed conspiracy theories, and also routinely talked to friends about wanting to shoot and murder protesters. As the Daily Dot reported:

...tweets blame China for the coronavirus pandemic. "[L]et's just call it the Chinese bat soup virus," says one...Numerous...tweets...are replies to President Donald Trump, conservative commentator Michael Savage, and Breaking 911, a right-wing site that has been described as "bogus" and untrustworthy.

According to the Austin-American Statesman:

The posts unsealed...included messages such as "Black Lives Matter is racist to white people... It is official I am racist because I do not agree with people acting like monkeys," Perry wrote.

Perry shared countless memes on Facebook, including one that said, "If this symbol represents racism in America ... (shows Confederate flag) SO DO THESE (shows NAACP logo, Hispanic scholarship fund, American Association for Affirmative Action, BET, UNCP, the democratic party logo, etc.)"

The Boston Globe reported:

Several items [Perry posted to social media] include racist or discriminatory content, such as a 2019 message in which Perry suggested he would like to "get paid for hunting Muslims in Europe." Memes that he shared joked about racially profiling neighbors and scolding a theoretical daughter for having a crush on a person of color.

The Houston Chronicle also noted:

Other items...found on Perry's phone include a undated meme that uses the n-word and complains about Black people being racist; a meme that advises people "pick up your brass" if they encounter rioters; and a May 29 text to another person that shows a photo of a building with a sign on it that says "WHITE POWER, White county power & light co."

Text messages also show that Perry had communicated to friends multiple times his desire to "shoot looters" and wanting to "shoot the ones in the front" of a demonstration, while complaining about "the blacks" organizing protests following the police murder of George Floyd.

Governor Abbot first made public his push to pardon Perry a day after the Fox News power-house Tucker Carlson defended Perry on his hit TV show. Like far-Right

killer Kyle Rittenhouse, who in 2020 shot and killed two people while seriously injuring a third during a Black Lives Matter protest in Kenosha, Wisconsin, Perry became a right-wing cause célèbre and symbol of vigilante violence that both the far-Right and the Republican party embraced in the wake of the George Floyd uprising.

As This Week in Fascism wrote:

This celebration of fascist murder has even become state official policy. In the wake of Rittenhouse's multiple killings, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under Trump directed officials to support the violence. As VIC Ereported, "Department of Homeland Security officials were given a list of sympathetic talking points to use when answering questions about the teenager who allegedly killed two Black Lives Matter protesters in Kenosha, Wisconsin, according to an internal memo obtained by NBC News."

This took place against a backdrop of extreme politicization within the DHS under Chad Wolf, according to whistleblowers, who instructed those working at the agency to downplay threats from the far-Right and play up the threat of anarchists and antifascists.

Settler-colonial states have always relied upon and benefited from extra-judicial murder and state-sanctioned violence against the broader population. From Trump calling on the Proud Boys to "Stand back and stand by," to slave patrols and state sponsored genocide of Native peoples, far-Right violence often helps to strengthen the structural violence of the State itself, not destabilize it.

As political repression and inequality explode, the State is also signaling to all its priorities: ramping up repression in the face of possible resistance from below, attempting to entrench divisions within the broader population, and readying those who they can call on to enforce the brutality of the status-quo.

For all the talk of “gun rights” and “standing your ground,” the instruction manual for this society is quite clear: it is only for those who tow the ruling class line and who aren’t pushing to attack this shit-show we call capitalism and white supremacy. The pardoning of Daniel Perry is a warning: that the State is willing to sanction and support extreme violence and outright murder against those it deems as political enemies.

## Open Letter to the Encampments and Protests in Support of Palestine

May 17, 2024

An open letter offering a critical analysis of the campus based movement in solidarity with Palestine.

As the summer sets in and most of the encampments pack up, the genocide will surely continue. Nothing we have done collectively seems to have slowed it down in any measurable way: everyone in Gaza at this point has been made homeless all over again, they are facing acute food insecurity, half are facing catastrophic levels of famine; Israel is still intentionally targeting children, the elderly, aid workers, family members of combatants, and journalists; attacks by settler paramilitaries in the West Bank are increasing, and now the Israeli government are revealing that their ceasefire negotiations were just a lie to buy more time as they begin their invasion of Rafah. We need to be able to face these facts. This is an invitation to recognize our failures and shortcomings and to move forward with this recognition. Palestine and Palestinians—specifically Gazans—need more effective solidarity.

For months here in northeast Ohio, we have watched the emergence of pro-Palestine “leadership” who have been catering to the wrong interests. Their approach has not been informed by the history of the struggle for Palestinian liberation, the struggle against segregation and

police here in the US, or relevant movements like the decades-long campaign for divestment from apartheid South Africa, a racist regime that was an explicit source of inspiration for the Israeli government.

This self-appointed leadership has pacified the movement and given all the advantages to those who demonstrably care nothing for Palestinians (the university administration, city council, the police, etc.). It has stripped us of our greatest sources of strength.

- Putting our faith in negotiations with the administration is just following the playbook that universities use to weaken student movements. Their method is to wait out the protests, knowing the end of the semester will arrive soon enough. If a university invests in Israeli genocide, do we think they care about the rights of either students or Palestinians?
- Letting the police into encampments puts many people—particularly people of color, houseless people, undocumented people, and people who are not neuronormative—at far greater risk of harm.
- Accepting the dominance of top-down and would-be vanguardist organizations hurts movements. Silencing criticisms of such groups in the name of “unity” is no excuse. We have seen time and again how these organizations ultimately prioritize their own organizational interests, which means recruiting, capturing the spotlight, spreading their party line, not dirtying their hands with real, long term organizing, not dedicating time to the labor of care or prisoner support, and sending others to carry out risky actions without informing them of the risks, without supporting them when they are arrested, and without taking risks themselves.
- Reducing the entire range of tactics to the hypocritical distinction between “peaceful” and “not peaceful” is just a coded way of saying what forms of resistance deserve to

be repressed. It’s playing respectability politics, which has never worked for the movements of the oppressed.

What is our greatest source of strength? Solidarity. But if students consent to the administration or self-appointed leaders aiding the police as they ID, expel, or arrest non-students from an encampment, they are breaking solidarity. If people at the encampments are engaging in “peace policing,” telling other people what tactics they are “allowed” to use, they are breaking solidarity.\* If they are punishing dissent, denouncing people brave enough to push back against police control by taking their pictures, filming them and putting it on social media, snitching or aiding in arrests, they are breaking solidarity. If they are organizing every event and protest at a breakneck rhythm, exclusively focused on a superficial urgency, only communicating over social media, or using other practices that exclude the elderly or people with disabilities or chronic illness, they are breaking solidarity. Urgency is real in our struggles, but it needs to be balanced by a rhythm that shows we are in this for the long haul, that we take care of us. This is especially important because many of the people who are being excluded have the experiences, skills, and bravery this movement needs to break out of all the enclosures so that the dominant institutions can’t keep ignoring us, silencing us, or arresting us as they profit off genocide.

To their credit, many of the groups and people who make up this movement agree with the concept of a diversity of tactics. We believe that, with a handful of exceptions (the politicians and police who come from inside the movement and from the outside) the people who are showing up are doing so from a real desire to enact solidarity, and they are coming from a place of sincerity. What we are trying to say, sincerely, is that in the face of genocide, we need to do better.

It has been inspiring to experience and participate in the rapidly growing network of encampments. In particular, working class

perpetrate new holocausts.”

-Fredy Perlman, Jewish anti-Zionist and anarchist, one of the few members of his family who survived the Holocaust

<https://crimethinc.com/GazaGenocid>



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@Crimethinc@todon.eu • May

We, Too, Remember Aleksei Sutuga: The Life of a Russian Anarchist and Anti-Fascist

<https://crimethinc.com/Socrates>

Aleksei Sutuga grew up deep in Siberia, in Irkutsk—the city to which Mikhail Bakunin was once exiled, not to mention many other Russian rebels. Known to his friends as Socrates, Aleksei became involved in the Russian anarchist and anti-fascist movements. His life is the subject of a recently published book.

The interviewees recount how anarchism reemerged in Russia after the collapse of the Soviet Union. Sharing their memories of Socrates, they explore the relationship between hardcore punk, straight edge, veganism, anarchism, anti-fascism, and a variety of other forms of activism. They describe how Socrates and his comrades became locked in a brutal conflict—first with neo-Nazis, then with the Russian authorities.

At the invitation of our Russian comrades, we have contributed an introduction to this book, exploring why his story is important for people outside Russia.



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The Encampments Spread to Mexico

<https://crimethinc.com/encampmen>

On May 2, students from a number of schools and student organizations across Mexico City launched a Palestine solidarity encampment in the heart of the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM), within view of the Okupa Che, a 24-year-running anarchist squat that once served as the UNAM’s largest auditorium. They established the encampment as an expression of solidarity with the wave of university encampments taking place in the United States against the Israeli state’s genocide in Gaza. By the end of the encampment’s first day, it already involved fifty tents, a free kitchen, and the visual redecoration of the space around it with messages of solidarity with Palestine.

We conducted this interview in person with a well-connected participant.



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Why the State Can’t Compromise with the Gaza Solidarity Movement—And What That Means for Us

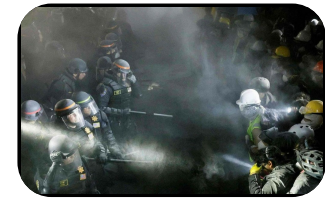
<https://crimethinc.com/Encampmen>

On April 17, students at Columbia University initiated an on-campus encampment in solidarity with Gaza. After the administration called in the New York City police department in a failed attempt to evict the encampment, students across the country established encampments and occupations of their own.

Why are the police being so heavy-handed? Why are the media contorting themselves into increasingly bizarre contradictions to condemn the protests? Why are the Democrats and the Republicans united in opposing these protests? And how is it that, in their haste to crack down, university

administrations, politicians, and police appear to have forgotten the basic principles of protest management?

In this analysis, participants in the movement explore the strategic questions it confronts today.



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
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We’ve prepared a zine version of the statement we received from participants in the now-legendary occupation of Cal Poly Humboldt in solidarity with people in Gaza. They explain why they set up a tree occupation to defend the space, exploring how the struggle for the liberation of Palestine is connected with many other struggles.

<https://crimethinc.com/zines/from-redwood-trees-the-view-of-a-new-world-being-born>

Please print these out and distribute them!

“We are not just working to destroy the nightmare of the world as it currently exists—we are also defending the seed of the world to come, defending a life worth living and sharing with others.”



CrimethInc. Ex-Workers  
@Crimethinc@todon.eu • May

Not only did the police fail to protect the 19 elementary school students and two teachers who were killed in a shooting in Uvalde—now the police are the ones carrying out shootings at schools themselves.

<https://crimethinc.com/TheirGuns>



Defying local opposition, Elon Musk has been trying to expand the Tesla "Gigafactory" outside Berlin. Today, anarchists participated in a mass mobilization against the project. The organizers reported that some participants blocked the nearby airport used by Tesla, while 800 people reached the factory premises to actively "redesign" the Gigafactory.

The mobilization:

<https://disrupt-now.org/disrupt-tesla>

Background:

<https://crimethinc.com/TeslaGermar>



Ahead of Another Summer of Climate Disasters, Let's Talk about Real Solutions

<https://crimethinc.com/Climate2024>

Peter Gelderloos explores why the strategies that mainstream environmental movements are currently employing to halt industrially-produced climate change are failing—and what we could be doing instead.



Crimethinc. Ex-Workers  
@Crimethinc@todon.eu • May

"Contrary to the promises of Israeli politicians, neither the apartheid policies of the Israeli government nor the brutality of the Israeli military have brought safety to anyone in the region. There is no way to stop to the bloodshed without putting an end to the colonial oppression of Palestinians.

"In any struggle, those who have the most power and access to resources have the most leverage in determining what form the conflict will take. The Israeli government has exponentially more arms and funding than any Palestinian group; across the course of decades, it has inflicted exponentially more casualties. Some of its staunchest supporters are Christian nationalists and neoliberals seeking leverage in the oil-rich Mideast. Any effort towards change in the region must begin by confronting their support."

You can print this poster out here:

<https://crimethinc.com/posters/free-palestine>

You can download a zine about how to make wheatpaste for poster making here:

<https://crimethinc.com/zines/field-guide-to-wheatpasting>



Crimethinc. Ex-Workers  
@Crimethinc@todon.eu • May 8



Crimethinc. Ex-Workers  
@Crimethinc@todon.eu • May

We have prepared a zine version of our analysis, "Why the State Can't Compromise with the Gaza Solidarity Movement."

<https://crimethinc.com/zines/why-the-state-cant-compromise-with-the-gaza-solidarity-movement>

Please print these out and distribute them.



Crimethinc. Ex-Workers  
@Crimethinc@todon.eu • May

How can it be that immediately after Holocaust Remembrance Day, the Israeli military is preparing a ground invasion of Rafah? The invasion will cause the senseless deaths of tens of thousands of Palestinian children. Many figures in the Israeli government have emphasized that their chief goal is to render Gaza completely uninhabitable.

"The entire Gaza Strip should be emptied and leveled flat, just like in Auschwitz."

-David Azulai, head of the City Council of Metula

"The idea that an understanding of the genocide, that a memory of the holocausts, can only lead people to want to dismantle the system is erroneous. The continuing appeal of nationalism suggests that the opposite is truer, namely, that an understanding of genocide has led people to mobilize genocidal armies, that the memory of holocausts has led people to perpetrate holocausts. The sensitive poets who remembered the loss, the researchers who documented it, have been like the pure scientists who discovered the structure of the atom... Nationalists used the poetry to split and fuse human populations, to mobilize genocidal armies, to

universities like Cal Poly Humboldt and CUNY should be commended for their creativity, bravery, and clear understanding of the intersections of struggle. This should be studied by communities, or anyone, who is seriously committed to resisting state repression and fighting for a free Palestine. These students, activists, and community members did not wait around for the administration to invite them to a seat at the table; they did not wait for a body of leadership to swoop in and save them. They simply understood what needed to be done in response to genocide.

As one student from Humboldt said, "I think of it as an honor to have been suspended fighting this."

We, too, feel honored to fight alongside you.

In solidarity, and for an end to all settler states and apartheid regimes from Turtle Island to Australia, and Aotearoa to Palestine,

-a Palestinian anarchist who grew up in Northeast Ohio, with family in the West Bank and loved ones in Gaza

-a settler-descended formerly incarcerated anarchist based in Cleveland

*we encourage everyone who supports this letter or considers it useful for ongoing conversations to share it, repost it, and send it to pertinent organizations and individuals involved in the solidarity movement*

*the authors of this letter are organizing a conversation about next steps for strengthening our movements, amongst the communities we organize in*

*we encourage people who receive this letter who are a part of other networks to also convene open conversations for reflection, learning, and strategizing*

*\*Clearly, people should be able to speak critically about any kind of tactic or action they disagree with, or that puts them at risk, and it is important for movements to work through this friction,*

*understanding there will never be complete consensus. In a pacified society, we need to work hard to expand our toolbox of available tactics, and in heterogeneous movements, we need to find ways for multiple spaces with different rhythms, skill sets, and risk levels to coexist. What we are criticizing here is the arbitrary imposition of pacifism, helping the police do crowd control, enabling police to ID people, and filming people and putting their faces online for yelling at the cops or pushing the envelope a little.*

## Postscript: On the difficulties of criticism in a leftist and nonprofit scene

In response to our open letter, published at the beginning of this week, we received a great deal of gratitude from people who had had similar experiences. We also received a significant amount of push back. We believe most of the resistance came from a sincere place, but it demonstrated a complicated mix:

- sympathy with the criticisms, but fear that other people would take them the wrong way
- apprehension that they "weren't experienced enough" to be making criticisms (sadly but unsurprisingly, this was voiced most often by women, especially women of color)
- concern that they couldn't sign the letter because they "weren't Palestinians" (just like being Palestinian doesn't automatically give you a good take, not being Palestinian doesn't mean you don't have a valid perspective - the most important thing, maybe, is to be aware and honest of what your perspective actually is, and what experience you actually speak from)
- well intentioned condescension
- tone policing, whereby offending movement allies who think we might be indirectly throwing shade their way is considered a worse crime than excluding people with jobs (not

counting tenured professors), people who aren't a part of the pre-established club of important activists, or people with chronic illnesses

- the belief that airing criticisms violates solidarity or will lead to infighting
- the belief that criticism should only be shared between individuals or groups that already have a strong basis of trust
- attempts to silence the open letter or ghost people circulating it

One of the main takeaways here is extremely worrying: people in our movement are scared of criticism and aren't used to giving or receiving constructive criticism, resulting in an atmosphere of avoidance. From our experience over the prior decades and from movement history, we know that movements that cannot engage with constructive criticism are doomed to perpetuate harmful and self-defeating dynamics.

We also know that the current movement, at least in our geographic region, has gatekeepers, certain ideas of rhythm and urgency, minimums for being able to participate, rampant tokenism, unspoken beliefs about who matters and who does not, awareness of certain forms of oppression or exclusion and no awareness of others, a tendency to dismiss unpopular or radical ideas as "sectarian" while constantly rehabilitating and giving a pass to clearly sectarian groups that have harmed us in the past... above all it is a movement with very little memory of its own history.

These shortcomings made it difficult for many people to participate in the encampments in a meaningful way and it insulated those with the most power and the least accountable uses of power from any feedback or criticism. These forms of exclusion, many unintentional but some intentional, had a disproportionate impact on disabled people, older people, working people, racialized people, people more vulnerable to police violence, and people who do not hold a position of power in the established NGOs and Left



organizations. We know this from our own experience and the experiences expressed by multiple other people in the movement space. In fact, we only wrote this open letter because of the way meaningful participation was so limited and in some cases policed.

It was clear to us that a small but significant amount of the push back to the open letter was coming from an insincere and self-interested place. One of the clearest indicators of this were the multiple people wringing their hands about how the open letter might harm the solidarity movement, without at all addressing the ongoing forms of harm that we named are being perpetuated in the movement, and without voicing any empathy with one of the letter co-authors, who has family members and loved ones currently in the West Bank and Gaza.

We would like to describe an entrenched dynamic here in northeast Ohio, that also predominates in many other parts of the country: self-appointed leaders and organizers who mistake themselves for the movement, who are not always honest with themselves about how much relevance and presence their organizations actually have, and who talk about coalition-building to refer to a process that seems to center more on protecting egos, claiming turf, and building complicity and social power among a small number of established activists who are more likely inhibit and even drain movements than they are to enable and empower them.

We know that this description is only a small part of a big picture. There are also many groups and individuals that participate in these larger coalitions, that may be legally constituted as NGOs, or that constrain themselves to a single-issue focus, but that are sincerely doing the best they can in a difficult situation with severely limited resources. We appreciate you. We are also looking for the best ways to act in a situation in which our enemies hold nearly all the weapons.

We offer this feedback so that we can all develop a collective

consciousness of authoritarian dynamics that drain our movements and protect institutions of power from effective resistance, and so that any sincere people caught up in this framework have another opportunity to see it, acknowledge it, and change how they engage.

[photo: Indybay.org](#)

## A Letter From Black Rose Militants in California Public Universities to Our Colleagues

May 15, 2024

Open letter from militants within the Black Rose Anarchist Federation to workers at public universities in California.

*As members of grad student union UAW 4811 across the University of California begin voting in a unfair labor practice strike authorization in response to the encampment crackdown, members of BRRN who work in California universities drafted the following statement.*

We write to you as our California-based campuses join the ongoing encampment campaigns at American universities in opposition to the Western and Zionist belligerence against Palestinian personhood and homeland. We have spent seven months bearing witness to the horror.

Yet we also celebrate and learn from Palestinian resilience, incorporating their lessons into our actions of solidarity.

Despite university administrators' and politicians' best efforts to conceal it, Palestinian solidarity has been at the heart of a long history of resistance in California.

As is true for the rest of the so-called United States, California was founded on a genocidal settler colonial campaign. This began with the Gold Rush. While the US military waged a campaign of "Indian removal" in the interior of this country - including a war to

annex northern Mexico - California's late 19<sup>th</sup> Century settlement was facilitated by vigilante "bounty hunters" who received monetary prizes for every native person they killed. This assured that the riches of the Gold Rush would be enjoyed strictly by white settlers. Connections between California history, the U.S., and the Middle East become even clearer when we consider that Middle East oil has long been referred to as "black gold."

Just two years after the extreme violence of the Gold Rush, the California State University (CSU) system was founded in 1857 and the University of California (UC) followed in 1868. California public universities have long been tied to the interests of empire and settler colonialism, particularly through cutting edge military innovation. In fact, military spending played a key role in [developing the California economy](#) since the WWII era. In 2022, California received \$56.2 billion dollars of defense spending. The Department of Defense (DoD) controls over 3 million acres of land and employs just under 273 thousand civilians, active military, and reservists [in California](#).

That same year, UC campuses received upwards of \$290 million in Department of Defense contracts. More money continues to move through Los Alamos National Laboratory, which remains under the co-gestion of UC, Texas A&M, and a group of private nuclear-committed firms.

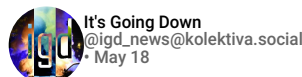
Military funding is not relegated strictly to the R-1 UC system either. For example, a research team at CSU Northridge received a \$530K DoD grant to investigate [augmented reality](#) as a bizarre technological fix to help minoritized populations grow "psychological resilience" in the face of what we see as structural problems.

Moreover, the California State University system invests [over a billion dollars](#) in corporations benefiting from the siege in Gaza (A breakdown of the report can be found [here](#)).

<https://itsgoingdown.org/open-letter-to-the-encampments-and-protests-in-support-of-palestine/>



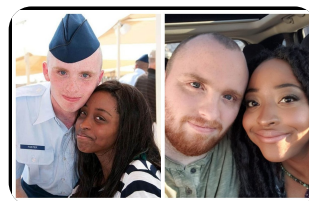
Open Letter to the Encampments and Protests in Support of Palestine  
An open letter offering a critical analysis of the campus based movement in solidarity with Palestine. As the summer sets in and most of the...



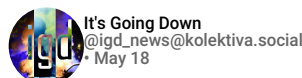
"For all the talk of "gun rights" and "standing your ground," the instruction manual for this society is quite clear: it is only for those who tow the ruling class line and who aren't pushing to attack this shit-show we call capitalism and white supremacy. The pardoning of Daniel Perry is a warning: that the State is willing to sanction and support extreme violence and outright murder against those it deems as political enemies."

[#GarretFoster](#) [#DanielPerry](#) [#Texas](#) [#BlackLivesMatter](#) [#2A](#)

<https://itsgoingdown.org/texas-governor-pardons-far-right-killer/>



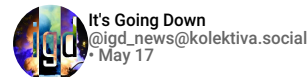
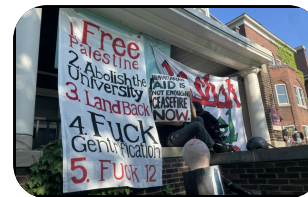
Texas Governor Pardons and Frees Far-Right Gunman Who Killed Black Lives Matter Protester  
On May 16th, the Trump aligned governor of Texas, Greg Abbott, pardoned and freed from prison Daniel Perry, an Uber driver and active-duty so...



Building occupied at the University of [#Chicago](#).

<https://chicagomaroon.com/43560/updates-pro-palestine-protesters->

[occupy-institute-of-politics/](#)



"We also know that the current movement, at least in our geographic region, has gatekeepers, certain ideas of rhythm and urgency, minimums for being able to participate, rampant tokenism, unspoken beliefs about who matters and who does not, awareness of certain forms of oppression or exclusion and no awareness of others, a tendency to dismiss unpopular or radical ideas as "sectarian" while constantly rehabilitating and giving a pass to clearly sectarian groups that have harmed us in the past... above all it is a movement with very little memory of its own history."

[#Palestine](#) [#FreePalestine](#) [#Ceasefire](#) [#FreeGaza](#) [#Gaza](#) [#CeasefireNow](#)

<https://itsgoingdown.org/open-letter-to-the-encampments-and-protests-in-support-of-palestine/>



Open Letter to the Encampments and Protests in Support of Palestine  
An open letter offering a critical analysis of the campus based movement in solidarity with Palestine. As the summer sets in and most of the...



Since 1853, France has been occupying the islands of New Caledonia against the wishes of the Indigenous Kanak people. In the 1870s, the French government exiled the anarchist Louise Michel and many other participants in the

Paris Commune uprising there.

In 1878, the Kanaks revolted against French oppression. Atai, one of the leaders of the revolt, achieved several victories against the occupiers. After he was finally betrayed, the French colonizers cut off his head and brought it back to Paris. They refused to return it until 2014.

Today, colonialism continues in New Caledonia. The French government has just sent 1200 more police officers there from Paris to suppress the latest uprising.

Like Louise Michel, we support Indigenous struggles against colonialism. Get France out of New Caledonia.

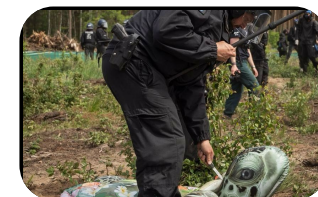


Many people were struck by this photograph that we circulated during today's protests against the deforestation that Elon Musk's Tesla plant is inflicting outside Berlin. Some even say that it seems like a sort of metaphor.

As partisans of neutral journalism, we believe that it is important to give both parties the opportunity to tell their side of the story.

In this photoessay, the cops present their side:

<https://crimethinc.com/cops>

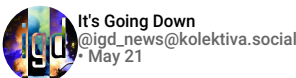


"Say it loud, say it clear—Elon is not welcome here!"





**University of California Student Workers Strike Against Repression on Campus**  
Over 48,000 workers at the Santa Cruz campus are taking labor action in defense of Palestine and the right to protest.



"On Monday, May 21st, local news channels and the AJC, reported on "dueling rallies" at Atlanta City Hall, and quoted far-Right grifter, Gabriel Nades, as a supposed example of genuine on the ground support for the controversial facility.

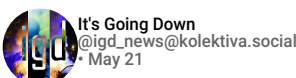
But Nades isn't even from Georgia, much less an Atlanta native. A former paid Leadership Institute organizer and activist with Turning Point USA, a group known for pushing the white supremacist "Great Replacement" theory and playing a key role in mobilizing attendance at January 6th, Nades actually originally hails from California and now works as the National Director of a right-wing foundation based in Virginia."

**#Atlanta #ATL #CopCity #StopCopCity**

<https://itsgoingdown.org/cop-city-far-right-troll/>



**Paper with Financial Ties to "Cop City" Project Finally Finds an Outside Agitator It Likes: A Far-Right Troll**  
After years of parroting "outside agitator" narratives about protests against "Cop City" in Atlanta, local news media, i...

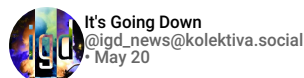


"The National Counterterrorism Center's (NCTC), a part of the Office

of the Director of National Intelligence, is beefing up its intelligence collection and analysis of "extremist" groups associated with domestic terrorism, particularly a domestic category called "Anti-government and anti-authority violent extremists," according to a source inside the community.

On May 10, the Chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee sent a letter to FBI Director Christopher Wray asking "whether the FBI had any related undercover employees, online covert employees, or confidential human sources" among what it called "pro-Hamas protests on college campuses."

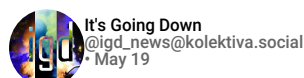
<https://www.kenklippenstein.com/p/intelligence-community-is-spying>



Long-time antifascist organizer and speaker Daryle Lamont Jenkins needs our help - please donate and share this fundraiser with those you know.

<https://www.qofundme.com/f/a-fighter-is-fighting>

**A Fighter is Fighting, organized by Daryle Lamont Jenkins**  
On New Years Day 2024 Daryle Lamont Jenkins was admitted to a hospital in the New Jersey a... Daryle Lamont Jenkins needs your support for A...



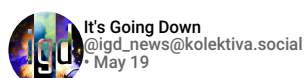
"The school had actually closed the library early at noon. So people broke in. One door got smashed, and the demonstrators flooded in, bringing their supplies, and methodically moving up the floors to secure the building. The campus police brought a final show of force, two cop cars. They were chased off within 15 seconds."

Photo and posts via [@alissaazar](https://twitter.com/alissaazar)

<https://itsgoingdown.org/eight-days-for-gaza-psu-report/>

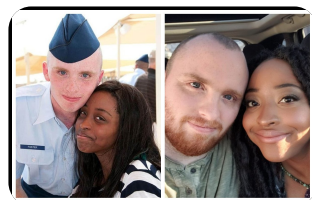


**Eight Days for Gaza: A Report on the Occupation and Defense of the Portland State University Library**  
A day-by-day reflection and account of a recent campus occupation in solidarity with Palestine at Portland State University (PSU), in Portla...

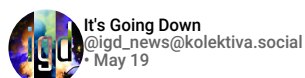


"A look into Perry's online footprint reveals him to be a far-Right Trump supporter who for years made racist comments, pushed conspiracy theories, and also routinely talked to friends about wanting to shoot and murder protesters."

<https://itsgoingdown.org/texas-governor-pardons-far-right-killer/>



**Texas Governor Pardons and Frees Far-Right Gunman Who Killed Black Lives Matter Protester**  
On May 16th, the Trump aligned governor of Texas, Greg Abbot, pardoned and freed from prison Daniel Perry, an Uber driver and active-duty so...



"Accepting the dominance of top-down and would-be vanguardist organizations hurts movements. Silencing criticisms of such groups in the name of "unity" is no excuse. We have seen time and again how these organizations ultimately prioritize their own organizational interests, which means recruiting, capturing the spotlight, spreading their party line, not dirtying their hands with real, long term organizing, not dedicating time to the labor of care or prisoner support, and sending others to carry out risky actions without informing them of the risks, without supporting them when they are arrested, and without taking risks themselves."

But such a dystopian reality of a military-industrial-academic complex has never gone without resistance from us, the students and workers who make the institution run. Notably, the UC saw a massive student uprising from 1964-65 when the Berkeley campus banned anti-Vietnam War demonstrations on campus. Some protest manifestations saw as many as 800 students arrested. Not only were students before us opposed to the war itself, but also to UC involvement in the war industry. This image below is from 1971, when our predecessors at Cal mapped out the military presence on campus.

At that time, we discovered an alleged \$11 million in defense contracts on campus and more than \$250 million at Los Alamos National Laboratory (Santa Fe, NM) and other UC-affiliated labs. Even Zoology and Entomology were apparently in the military's pocketbooks, receiving \$16,395 and \$27,000 in blood money respectively.

Ultimately, that 1960s student movement was crushed as part of a broader state terror campaign against the New Left, including the American Indian Movement, Black Power movement, Chicano movement, and Puerto Rican independence movement, among others, that were in dialogue with and informed by the broader Third Worldist tradition, to which the Palestinian cause also belongs.

This recent wave of struggle began 15 years ago, when the neoliberal project seized a moment of global financial crisis to shock our universities with austerity cuts and subsequent fee hikes. We at the UC and our comrades at California State University (CSU) schools took over buildings in opposition to 32% and 30% tuition hikes in the respective public university systems. When students at UCLA took over Campbell Hall and renamed it Carter-Huggins Hall after two members of the Black Panthers shot dead on campus in 1969-the Palestinian flag was there.

When UCSD students claimed CLICS library-one of 4 being closed down on campus in 2012-

the Palestinian flag was there.

We have seen a growing wave of labor militancy on our campus, led by graduate academic student-workers (colloquially, Teaching Assistants). We organized our first TA strike in 2013. We followed our successful contract struggle by becoming the first local of a US-based union to pass a Boycott, Divest, and Sanctions (BDS) resolution in 2014, only to be overridden by Democrat-party affiliated bureaucrats who direct the United Autoworkers from Detroit. The Palestinian flag was there.

In 2019, we launched a wildcat strike at UC Santa Cruz that was brutally repressed by police, leaving some 80+ workers fired. As militancy spread to campuses from San Diego to Davis, UC police collaborated with the National Guard to track activity. The longhaul strike won an increase in wages and forced the university bosses to rehire all those who had been fired, but fell short of achieving the movement's core demand: a cost-of-living-adjustment to salaries that leave instructors paying on average 70% of their income to cover rent. Throughout it, militants demanded that support for Palestinian liberation make its way into our demands. The Palestinian flag was there.

Then, the student-workers' combative spirit grew amongst professors UC-wide as well, especially amongst Lecturers who labor on average for just above minimum wage. In 2020, UC professors worked alongside students to launch the [Cops Off Campus campaign](https://itsgoingdown.org/cops-off-campus-campaign/) to bring the broader struggle against policing into the institutions where we work and study. Inspired by the Movement for Black Lives, we reaffirmed our position: abolish the police. Not only did we call for police abolition, but also for demilitarization of the universities. We salute Palestinians for having accompanied our abolitionist movement with recent ties stretching back to the Ferguson, Missouri uprising of 2014 as well as to prior movements in the legacy of the Black Freedom Struggle, such as

that against apartheid South Africa. The Palestinian flag was there.

Many of us in the public school system-whether students, faculty, or staff-come from non-white, working class families who share a history of structural violence enacted upon us and our ancestors in the name of ongoing displacement, segregation, empire, and genocide.

These are our stories, and the stories of our families. Look no further than the apartheid wall that divides San Diego-Tijuana and the IDF-informed ports of entry for a recent piece of evidence. We are proud to tell our stories alongside that of Palestinian resistance and we are informed by the novel works of Edward Said, Rashid Khalidi, and Nur Masalha, among others. Certainly, imperial efforts to silence, censor, and kill our Palestinian colleagues and teachers have ensured that many more important thinkers have not been able to reach us. We resist this epistemic violence and affirm our responsibility to demonstrate how our struggles connect.

In our classrooms, we cannot discuss Black Power without talking about Palestine.

We cannot discuss Chicano History without talking about Palestine.

We cannot discuss Native resistance without talking about Palestine.

We cannot discuss global feminism without talking about Palestine.

Since the 1960s, students and academic workers have fought for space to include decolonial history and theory into the curriculum, including the successful efforts of the Third World Liberation Front, a coalition of CSU/UC student groups who went on strike in order to establish Ethnic Studies at San Francisco State University. Ethnic Studies then spread throughout the CSU/UC systems and is now embedded in K-12 education in California as a requirement for graduation. Current campus uprisings take note of these genealogies of struggle and reflect a nationwide cultural shift in the

American university from which there is no return.

But liberatory momentum rarely goes uncontested. As the university winds up repression against staff, students, and faculty acting in solidarity with Palestinians, we emphatically echo the calls for our coworkers and classmates to strike in the face of the growing militarization of our work and study space.

Such calls have come not only from below, from the voices of students and rank-and-file union militants. After university bosses sicced police on us at the UCLA encampment, union leadership filed an Unfair Labor Practice (ULP) against the hostile working conditions, opening the doors for a sanctioned strike. On May 13-15, 48,000 postdocs, academic researchers, student researchers, teaching assistants, tutors, and readers at the UC will cast their ballots in a [strike authorization vote](#).

Those of us in UAW 4811 endorse a yes vote during this strike authorization period. As well, we urge other rank-and-file members of our union to impress upon members of the union executive board that this package of demands can only be met through strike action. Additionally we urge rank-and-file members to organize departmental townhalls in preparation for a work stoppage.

Those of us who are UC-AFT lecturers commit to joining our UAW 4811 colleagues on the picket line and [refuse to aid or abet retaliation](#) against those on strike.

Those of us in other parts of the California system of higher education, particularly the California State University (CSU) system commit to joining our colleagues at UC institutions on the picket line.

The struggle on the campuses opened by the student movement has shown its immense resolve. It is time for us, as academic workers whose labor the university relies upon, to open a new front in this fight.

We intend to strike not only over 10

our institution's complicity in the occupation of Palestine, but with the historical memory of its role in the war crimes in Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, East Timor, Somalia, Granada, Guatemala, and many more. North America's legacy is one of creating and spreading a Taylorist model for the production of death world over. In our universities-which are perhaps small but lucrative R&D sites in this production line-we can build the power to refuse this work.

## "The Cops Brought Guns": Sights and Sounds from the UCLA Liberated Zone

May 13, 2024

Personal reflection and account of the popular defense of the Palestine solidarity encampment at UCLA in the face of attacks by far-Right supporters of Israel and law enforcement. To hear a podcast interview on this subject, [go here](#).

*Photo by Shay Horse*

APR 30. 11:45 PM There are a couple of constant stimuli that bombard you when you reach the encampment - *through the backline, past the lower quad, and up the stairs; beyond these stairs a barricade, holding the front lines of the encampment together with road signs, metal barriers, and wooden boards. This barricade splits the encampment into two distinct zones of lower risk (before the barricade, including the stairwell, the greens at either end, and the lower quad down below) and higher risk (beyond it, on the upper quad).*

These sounds and symbols mark the movement with a reverberant ostinato. The first sounds immediately apparent as I walk up the campus steps are the throes of hundreds of voices, impressions which on any other day would be sports fans miles in the distance, but are released instead from the strained bodies of the pro-Palestinian demonstrators only a couple of feet beyond the

barricaded stairtop. *These demonstrators were students, medics, faculty, friends, parents, community members and leaders. Watching - without participating, either presently or from the safety of campus buildings - were UCLA campus safety, multiple city and state police departments, and school administrators, damned into historical records as actors who intentionally put their students in the line of fire. Perched upon Royce Hall are two snipers, with a view of the inner encampment.*

Well into the next morning, the screams encouraged the other several hundred students guarding the barricade to remain steadfast, repel any instigators, and hold the line. Then there are the calls for medics, frequent and piercing. *Students were often rushed out of the side entrance bloodied, confused, or drenched in pepper spray, and sent off for triage. Just as my group arrived, we witnessed a small string of students being escorted out of the camp with bloody heads.*

A group of students, no older than undergrad age, emerge crying as others gather to pour water down their faces. There, they are recognized by their friends, in utter dismay at their condition, feigning whatever confidence they have left to coax their friends into calm, to open their eyes for the water to wash out the poison. *Here is the city of LA, once again leading the charge in showing that the full might of the imperial core can be mobilized to oppress dissent, as it did in 2020 after the murders of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, as it did in 2014 in Oakland after the murder of Michael Brown, as it did in 1992 after the beating of Rodney King, in 1965 after the arrest of Marquette Frye, in 1943 with the Bracero program, etc..., a pattern starting with the inception of the state in 1851 through the genocide of indigenous peoples.*

A sign, bearing the word "divest!" in fluorescent orange, sits tucked away beneath the hedges at the barricade end of the greens. *Beyond the barricade, at the top of the stairs, the demonstrators faced chemical, psychological, and physical violence from Zionist*

Resistance to stop the shipping of military vehicles through the port - which succeeded! An old lady walked by, gave us some words of support and then handed one of us \$20 which was really funny. And we intensely pissed off the owners of Dancing Goats Coffee because we wouldn't let their car through and they had a really funny melt down over it even though they could have just parked somewhere else and walked in.

Dispersal was pretty clean and easy and there have been no arrests. Overall and despite everything it was just really fun and surprisingly easy.

## WHY THE PORT? WHY A BLOCKADE?

What does the Port of Olympia have to do with the genocide of the Palestinian people? Nothing, but also everything. Every facet of american society and its economy is a cog in the genocide machine. All income tax, sales tax, property tax, industry taxes, etc eventually go to the war machine. A healthy economy supports the war machine and enables the US Government to send billions in aid and weapons to Israel. The more stable the american state, the more stable the Israeli state. For the Palestinians to live, the US must fall.

The halls of power are a smoke screen and stocked full of clowns, they're a distraction. Power is in logistics, circulation/distribution, production and extraction. It's ports, railways and highways. It's the manufacturers of military equipment. It's the places of extraction and refinement of the raw materials that make the equipment. It's the places where the vehicles that transport the raw materials, intermediate and finished products are parked and refueled. Power is the economy and our freedom is in its destruction.

What we did was a tiny pinprick, but it wasn't just us, it was people blockading Sea-Tac, it was people blockading Intel in Portland, I-5 in Eugene, the 808 in Oakland, the Golden Gate Bridge in SF, and it will probably be a few days before

we get the full scope of what other places were doing.

## SOME TAKEAWAYS

Trying to blockade the Port of Olympia with just 25 people was a fucking audacious plan, and that we held both the truck entrances at all is wild, but people had the energy and confidence and made it happen. What would have helped would to have had more hard blockade materials. We're proponents of not trying to fight trucks with our bodies. Pallets, old furniture, whatever random shit we can grab, and ideally caltrops and spikeboards should make more appearances.

Having more things to do to keep the energy up would have been cool - we did really well with chanting but maybe like some kind of sound system both for music and talking about what was going on and why would have been cool, a soccer ball to kick around in the intersection would have been cute. Stuff like that!

Thinking more to the future, having some sort of autonomous media group - autonomous as in not a fixed/named organization but an ideally rotating position for comrades who maybe don't want to/can't risk being in the thick of it for whatever reason to sound off about what's going on and to safely take pictures/video of action in a way that is safe and also consistent with anarchist principles and applied in a way as to not make celebrities out of people, to not hollywoodify action, to not focus on aesthetic over substance, etc.

Similarly, there has been a consistent push by anarchists and other autonomous rebels to reject social media and return to offline means of organizing and outreach for all manner of actions and events. Doing more individually texting friends about things going on, inviting them to meet up and talk about it, going to other events and inviting people/handing them fliers, and throwing fliers up everywhere. The better we get at this, the stronger our networks are and the more we are able to mobilize.

One of the things we did really well was destroying the leadership position. The collective reading of the statement rather than one or two comrades reading it or saying something was really solid. There was a lot of checking in with each other, asking each other questions, encouraging each other to just do things but also people feeling comfortable to voice concerns when they thought something may not be a good idea. It was a breath of fresh air from some previous actions where people unconsciously take a follower position and thrust someone - often unwillingly - into a leadership position. I'm excited to see more of them and to see this extend outside the space of actions.

In conclusion, 25 people can do a lot. What can you do?

FREEDOM FOR THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE  
LONG LIVE THE SPIRIT OF INSUBORDINATION  
FERAL WAR AGAINST THE PORT AND ITS WORLD

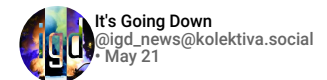
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[1] <https://www.a15action.com>

[2]

<https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/sea-tac-airport-expressway-closed-due-to-protesters/>

Photo by [Ömer Yıldız](#) on [Unsplash](#)



"On May 20, University of California (UC) student and postdoc workers at the Santa Cruz campus began a historic strike against the repression of the student movement. UAW 4811, which represents over 48,000 workers, voted last week to authorize a strike in response to intense repression unleashed against students and faculty protesting for Palestine."

<https://truthout.org/articles/universi-of-california-student-workers-strike-against-repression-on-campus/>



[https://media.blubrry.com/wfhnbin/content/uploads/2024/05/KITELI\\_DunnMeadowLiberatedZone.mp3](https://media.blubrry.com/wfhnbin/content/uploads/2024/05/KITELI_DunnMeadowLiberatedZone.mp3)

Eight days ago, students and others established a tent camp - a Liberated Zone - at IU's Dunn Meadow, as part of a national rising tide of protest against Israel's war in Gaza.

Within hours, Indiana State Police arrived from Indianapolis and attacked the students, injuring dozens and arresting 34 students and faculty. The protesters were undaunted, rebuilt their encampment, and faced a repeat assault that Saturday. The repressive apparatus reached this level of violence across the country, with dozens of camps and occupied buildings facing militarized incursions by police.

This begs the question of why the state turned so quickly to naked violence, even compared to previous movements that have had to face down and defeat police violence. Many have pointed to Cop City and similar police training facilities, which have worked since the 2020 George Floyd Uprising to prepare cops to squash anti-racist protest. We have covered the Stop Cop City movement previously on Kite Line. There is certainly an intimate relationship between prisons, police violence, and this country's long history of racist repression.

We spoke to local IU faculty and other movement participants about this sequence and what it says about the future.

## Report from A15 at the Port of Olympia

May 5, 2024

**Report on solidarity blockade on April 15th in Olympia, WA. For a full roundup of actions, [go here](#).**

An international call went out for a coordinated economic blockade for a free Palestine [1] for April 15th. While many people probably decided to go north to Seattle, where they blockaded the Sea-Tac [2] international airport, a small

group of us got together and decided to plan what we could to here in Olympia. It's cool and important to go support other cities actions, but we also gotta fight on our turf because no one else will.

About 25 of us met up in Heritage park, we had 4 large banners, some Palestinian and black flags, buckets that were used as drums and a wagon filled with water and snacks. We also had a couple hundred print outs of the A15 statement and solidarity agreement which read as follows:

The proposal states that in each city, we will identify and blockade major choke points in the economy, focusing on points of production and circulation with the aim of causing the most economic impact, as did the port shutdowns in recent months in Oakland, California and Melbourne, Australia, as just a few examples.

There is a sense in the streets in this recent and unprecedented movement for Palestine that escalation has become necessary: there is a need to shift from symbolic actions to those that cause pain to the economy.

As Yemen is bombed to secure global trade, and billions of dollars are sent to the Zionist war machine, we must recognize that the global economy is complicit in genocide and together we will coordinate to disrupt and blockade economic logistical hubs and the flow of capital.

We will act in solidarity with each other in the face of attacks from the media, politicians and the police and the Zionist project. We will support each other in the following ways:

If one city faces police repression, other cities will extend or expand their blockades or initiate other actions in response if able to the best of their abilities and capacity

We will not attack each other or each other's actions on social media or to the press. We will hold a post-action debrief so that we can raise principled critiques among ourselves in a constructive

manner rather than publicly.

Every city will take responsibility for choosing and planning their own local actions. Fellow organizers will not discourage or denounce each others plans because solidarity means affinity, not ownership.

We will keep each other safe by not talking to the police, not coordinating with the police, and not talking to them about our actions or our fellow organizers.

We circled up and took turns reading from the statement. After this people started chanting and with good energy took the streets. We snaked through downtown at a steady pace - not too fast, not too slow - chanting while people banged out a steady beat on the drums. We headed off to the Port of Olympia and on the way some logs joined our procession.

We got to the main gate, formed a line blocking the entrance with ourselves and the logs and whatever else we could drag with us. Immediately port security and workers got physical with us and tried to push us out of the road, but people held strong, didn't let each other get pushed around and did it joyously while laughing in their faces. Eventually they fucked off and when they did half the group split a little down the ways to go block the only other entrance for trucks.

We held both entrances for about an hour and a half and for the most part it was incredibly chill! Towards the end the second blockade started getting more trucks and vehicles trying to drive through them and while they won a couple games of chicken with vehicles, port security and workers began going up to the truck drivers and encouraging them to run over people. People decided to come consolidate back on the main entrance and we held that for another hour and a half before deciding to disperse.

In that time some people came and dropped off pizza for us, someone who was walking by stopped to talk to us about their experiences blocking the very same gate back in 2007 during Port Militarization

*mobs that had gathered with the intent to destroy the encampment. Throughout the life of the camp, the pro-Palestinian protestors were subject to beatings, chemical irritant attacks, firework artillery, doxxing, assaults from rods or planks of wood, one incident of biological violence in a mice attack, and psychological violence in the form of music torture. On this night, they faced bout after bout of physical brutality from the Zionists as the riot-clad police watched - onsite - for hours, before deciding to clear the area of counter-protestors in the early hours of the morning. I sat, with others, at the back line (walking between the main stairway entrance and the smaller entrance flanking the encampment on the greens north of the stairs) watching as the violence unfolded.*

The choppy rumble of the police helicopters holding formation above the school; the drone flying up and around the base of the Liberated Zone, eyeing all the people who populate it. *I wondered what the LA police would use my face for, what data point they had just gleaned from me. Could they see me from their cockpit (pigpit?), kissed by the Beverly skyline? 50 layers of masks and black bloc could not have made me feel any less peered into, could not have reinforced my face against the beam coming from that helicopter lantern. I'm sure if they could find a way to make light kill you they would.*

*Six minutes East of this scene, the Beverly Hills Plaza Hotel stands undisturbed, Rodeo Dr. the pearl of LA bourgeoisie. Flanked on the West, the Getty sits atop Brentwood as a beacon of cultural heritage. The Hills disappeared, folded, tucked away into the liberated land, as if the sky itself descended onto campus to protest, closing down the heavens in the process.*

*"Is anyone here a surgeon?" Miraculously, after a beat, one appeared. I would see them in and about the camp as the night progressed. The absence of the sounds of alarms, beepers, and life support systems; not a thousand feet away, the UCLA hospital*

*profits from attending to the injuries of students protesting on its university campus. By the time my group arrived at the barricade, at least 25 students had been sent to the hospital.*

*We had found use in shuttling supplies up the camp, as well as sussing out bad actors and asking them to leave. A majority of our duties for the next hour and a half included escorting agitators out of the encampment.*

**May 1, 2 AM** Every thirty seconds or so, the safety team would call for wanted and unwanted supplies as droves of (what were mostly) students poured in with water, masks, food, and swim goggles. The speaker had long since found a working cadence:

*"We're on lockdown! We're on lockdown, so we're not letting anyone else in. If you also want to contribute, there's always here [pause] you can always contribute here. [long pause] For supplies, we're taking medical supplies, water, no milk! goggles, umbrellas, saline water, ooh no clothes, no food!"*

Every couple minutes for the last few hours, sirens ring out from beyond the school perimeter, somewhere before the school extends into the city proper. They seemingly serve two functions: to the protestors, they create an air of confusion; they cement this place as a place of criminality, instead of a peaceful enactment upon citizens' unalienable First Amendment rights; they signal to protestors that police might be coming for them, the sirens hiding in the distance in police-cruiser fatigues. To those who are not protesting, perhaps city folk, university residents, or passersby, it establishes the area as one with an unsafe presence. Even if you're clued into the whole act it works well to unnerve you and deter those on the fence. *What these sirens don't tell you is that the students here endured a siege from Zionist forces that left them battered and bloody; these students endured war, assisted by Israeli private security, funded by Zionist donors, and encouraged by city and*

*state government and law enforcement at the behest of University of California system executives.*

*Students get as far up the stairs as they can before meeting someone close to the encampment which stops them, and then collects their supplies to pass upward in a long chain from the middle of the stairs to the encampment barricade at the top.*

*"If you're giving supplies, we need goggles, make sure they're out of their packaging; we need umbrellas, make sure that's out of its packaging," a group of students walks by with jugs of milk - "we're not taking milk!"*

*Several 2-liter milk jugs line the benches leading up to the stairwell.*

*Every so often, someone walks through the encampment in such a way as to arouse suspicion from camp members. As if by pheromone alone, or possibly because of their gait, dress, or maskless visage, Zionist agitators were quickly identified and, by and large, escorted out of camp. Most of them came to the encampment with recording devices already rolling.*



Photo via @HuntedHorse on Twitter/X.

[protestor, to a Zionist] "No pictures please."

"Fuck you."

Upon sighting, a camp member would ask the agitator to stop recording. If they escalate, the camp members would be quick to yell "Zionist!"; jeers and responses would amplify this call and flashlights would scramble to point out their location. *Sometimes it took individual feats of logic and*

wit (asking an agitator who claimed to be press for their press badge, to which they were too stunned to respond and thus left); other times, it took more established protocol (umbrellas, kettling, de-escalation). The protestor, if not driven out by then, would be escorted to an exit point. As it turns out, fascist mob men love to LARP as brownshirts until you work as a team or bring out umbrellas.

For the last few hours of the night, there have been no sounds of chants. *Everyone is focused solely instead on continuing the action. It seems as if the air is too tense - the situation too dire, and yet somehow too diffuse for chants to manifest themselves. Everyone seemed to be either looking for something to do, doing it, or leaving. It's if the collective decided not to shroud itself; its members, Brentwood, etc. from the horrors the agitators committed onto the protestors (which police and admin allowed to occur), horrors which were perfected in Gaza and imported onto domestic soil. IOF collaboration; tactical infiltration; Magen Am invited happily into command rooms. In this struggle, all the oppressed are one and the same, and we knew that in those moments.*

*A group enters the encampment but is denied entry through the barricade despite having just left for supplies minutes prior.*

**SOME TIME AFTER 4 AM** The sounds of joy. The sounds of love. On the megaphone, the speaker announces the successful defense of the encampment as Zionist counter-protestors are evicted from camp. Cheers as the encampment celebrates holding the line for one more night.

Sleep.

**May 2, 12:00 AM** There is a considerable, palpable increase in the number of protestors here tonight. Anywhere from 750-1,500 by my count outside the barricade, who knows how many inside. It is magical; and I thought yesterday was a show of force. That many more people make *that* much more

noise: jokes between groups of friends and soon-to-be-friends; strings of people visibly and audibly looking for other strings of people; an audible buzz rings around the campus. I feel as though we are all connected.

With the influx of masses comes structural and logistical issues. Upholding a no-filming policy is harder; maintaining and communicating key, up-to-date information to the camp becomes an improbability. I hear over the megaphone something to the effect of: "We are not dispersed. We have not yet received a dispersal order here at the barricade." *There was, indeed, a dispersal order given to the entire camp hours prior.*

**12:45 AM** *I think of the longstanding history of student protests. Throughout the nearly 800-year history of the university as a concept, it has been a moral imperative of the student body to voice its concerns through protest. It's incredible that however much we want to escape from the issues between town and gown - however much we want to globalize our concerns - the university is dragged back into struggles of power between the university body and the citizenry surrounding the university. These cops, however, are not from around here.*

A drone again, whizzing above the encampment, flying closer and closer to our faces (the closest it got was about 50-75 feet up and away from me from my recollection).

A building sits off in the distance, illuminated by warm facade lighting, supplying a kind of violent irony that was not lost on me, its glow a strong reminder of the will of the university to maintain pretty façades, be they architectural or political. *There was no pretty façade large enough to cover up these abuses of power, however; you cannot make "500 cops, two snipers suppress the rights of thousands of protestors on campus" go away with non-performative speech and red tape.*

The protest-wide no-filming guideline seems to have been lifted in favor of documenting the atrocities the police are expected to

commit (or else it seems that way), as the speaker is not calling out anyone who films and neither are any other protestors. The stairwell is alive, an organism of many instruments; there's an ebb and flow, but throughout the night the population rises steadily.

**1:20 AM** Terror as LAPD is seemingly invited through the back lines into the encampment. Confusion and anger manifest in the form of ardent screaming. *It is only later that it is revealed that the safety team, comprised of members of UAW Local 4811, intentionally led LA officers up through the encampment.* Not one minute later - flashbangs and sound bombs.

Chants.

"Peaceful protest! (Peaceful protest!) Throngs of students - either from the top of the stairs or from the edge of the encampment past the barricade - descend toward safety. The injured arrive and are sent off to seek attention. To my surprise, another group of Zionists inside the encampment materialized beyond the main gates, sent down the main staircase.

"UCPD, KKK, IOF they're all the same! (UCPD, KKK, IOF they're all the same!)"

"Off our campus! (off our campus!)"

On the megaphone, the speaker instructs the protestors; instantly, there is an audible difference in their tone and method of communication. Swift and calm as ever, they announce that students may see distressing images unfold within the next couple of minutes: mass arrests of their friends and colleagues, physical violence, and chemical attacks. *What seemed like the full force of California's finest were making their way to campus to finally use those millions of dollars of taxpayer money on the children.*

"Free, free Palestine! (free, free Palestine!) Free, free, free Palestine! (free, free, free Palestine!)"

*The cops have guns. There were at*



During our discussion, our guest breaks down how the UCLA encampment grew in the face on continued harassment and attacks from far-Right pro-Israel counter-protestors. These attacks escalated on April 30th, when a group of Zionists attacked barricades erected around the outside of the encampment, in full view of security and police, who left the area and watched the attack. As people defended themselves from violent counter-demonstrators, clashes escalated, lasting into the early morning. The next day, police then used the attack as a context for carrying out a violent raid of the encampment, shooting and injuring students and community members with projectile weapons.

As the New York Times wrote:

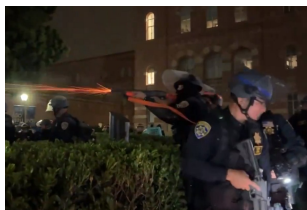
[An] examination of more than 100 videos from clashes at the University of California, Los Angeles, found that violence ebbed and flowed for nearly five hours, mostly with little or no police intervention. The violence had been instigated by dozens of [far-Right Zionists] who are seen in videos counterprotesting the encampment.

The videos showed counterprotestors attacking students in the pro-Palestinian encampment for several hours, including beating them with sticks, using chemical sprays and launching fireworks as weapons. As of Friday, no arrests had been made in connection with the

attack.

The melee began when a group of counterprotestors started tearing away metal barriers that had been in place to cordon off pro-Palestinian protesters. Hours earlier, U.C.L.A. officials had declared the encampment illegal.

Security personnel hired by the university are seen in yellow vests standing to the side throughout the incident. A university spokesperson declined to comment on the security staff's response.



Police shoot off riot shotguns at UCLA encampment.

TruthOut reported:

Los Angeles Times higher education journalist Teresa Watanabe reported that members of the pro-Israel mob used explicitly genocidal language as they ripped down encampment barriers, yelling, "Second Nakba!" — a reference to the forced displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes in 1948.

"For over seven hours, Zionist aggressors hurled gas canisters, sprayed pepper spray, and threw fireworks and bricks into our encampment," organizers said. "They broke our barriers repeatedly, clearly in an attempt to kill our community."

"Law enforcement simply stood at the edge of the lawn and refused to budge as we screamed for their help," the statement continued. "The only means of protection we had was each other. We keep each other safe."

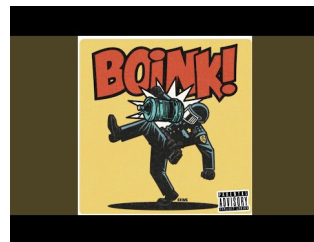
The Daily Bruin, which had student reporters on the scene, reported that "security and UCPD both retreated as pro-

Israel counter-protesters and other groups attacked protesters in the encampment."

As we cover on the podcast, the far-Right Zionist and police violence on full display at UCLA exposes the false claims by the Biden administration and campus leaders across the country; growing police repression of campus demonstrations is aimed at crushing the anti-war movement which threatens US military interests, not to "protect students" or ensure their "safety."

The successful mass defense of the UCLA encampment from the far-Right is a turning point for the movement. As one person posted on social media following the clashes, "Everyone at UCLA should feel incredibly proud of themselves. Fighting the cops is where all our movements will have to go, and they're correct to do it and brave to face it." Another account added, "There were thousands of people at UCLA who didn't back down and battled to defend the camp. We will never forget what that night was like. So many people came out in solidarity." Throughout our discussion, we talk about the dynamics on the ground, the various forces at play, and where the movement might go next.

**Music:** No\$hu, "The Bonk Song"



**Kite Line: The Dunn Meadow Liberated Zone**

*May 5, 2024*

Kite Line reports on the Palestine solidarity encampment at Indiana University in so-called Bloomington, IN.



said Darrell.

"I think the property manager should think about how inhumane this is," added Antonia, who has lived in the building for 17 years. "There is a lot of mold, we have rats, cockroaches, and no one has answered our requests. I have 2 children, I wish the owner would care or think about this. I'm thinking about my babies."

"In my case, there was a gas leak in the stove. They said they smelled gas at my house, I told management, they never listened to me," another tenant Griselda said. "Something exploded and I got really angry because I pay my rent, yet the manager has never asked if I'm OK or listened. I sent a message saying I didn't have a stove. You can sit and have your meals but I can't. If we pay rent, we need a property manager who is present."

As if to underscore management's disregard for their tenants, Julieann Phipps, BLVD residential/Byong Yu representative at the town hall, left during the testimonies.

Representatives from the city, Kelly Hoffman and Corean Todd, outlined the Code Compliance Relocation Program and answered tenants' questions about move outs and their rights under this ordinance.

Since the tenant council was formed during the early pandemic, Valley Street tenants have collectively made demands for repairs, petitioned the city, and carried out a picket outside of KP plaza, a property owned by the landlord Byong Yu. Still, Yu blames the tenants while providing no clear plans and terms for the repairs.

With collective power, Valley Street tenants will continue to demand dignified housing, repairs and clear communication from Byong Yu and BLVD residential.

## New Zine on Balagoon Boxing Club in Philadelphia

May 5, 2024

**Announcing a new zine publication on the Balagoon Boxing Club in so-called Philadelphia, PA. Originally posted to [Bash Back! News](#)**

[Download and Print Zine-Imposed PDF](#)

[For Reading PDF](#)

Growing out of the strong antifascist movement in Philadelphia, anarchists have been fighting training together here for the better part of a decade. The current iteration grew out of a group that would meet about once a week prior to the pandemic. A few people in Philly had taken advantage of some financially feasible trial periods at Muay Thai gyms or were more consistent in their Muay Thai training generally. People would take drills that stuck with them to the anarchist group, we would drill, and then finish out with sparring.

Post-pandemic and George Floyd uprising, some people continued to train with friends in parks. This would wax and wane as Covid spiked up and down. Motivated by the changing reality of the political context in a post-Floyd uprising U.S., people continued to meet in parks and basements to train together three days a week. Factors such as the development of the Rise Above Movement and other fascist fight groups, increases in general xenophobic sentiment, the explicit right-wing fixation and pervasiveness of anti-queer and anti-trans hatred, and the need to defend oneself from police and counter-attack attack with frequency and intensity of rioting in the U.S.

Eventually, the gym moved into various indoor spaces. Our current, and most long running space, is one which we split with some other folks who do raves. We fight in the day, they party at night! After years of come-ups, licks, and scamming we have a pretty fully outfitted gym. We hang two heavy bags, but have more than we know what to do with. We have floor mats we got from for free from a gym that was closing (that double as a cushiony dance floor). We have focus mits, thai pads, belly pads, extra gloves,

extra shin guards, extra wraps, extra mouth guards, kick shields, jump ropes... really anything a normal gym would have.

Trainings now happen four times a week, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday where anyone is welcome. Tuesdays are non-cis men days, which are quite popular. For the longest time we did not have a name, we did not desire to be legible as some kind of organization, playing into the mystique and humor of being an iykyk meetup colloquially called "fight club." Recently, we've decided to take on the name Balagoon Boxing Club, after the [New Afrikan Anarchist Kuwasi Balagoon](#).

## "They'll Never Forget It": Report from the Battle to Defend the Palestine Solidarity Encampment at UCLA

May 5, 2024

[Photo by Shay Horse](#)

On this episode of the *It's Going Down* podcast, we are joined with a guest who discusses the mass mobilization to defend the Palestine Solidarity Encampment at UCLA in Los Angeles, CA, which was [attacked by far-Right Zionists on April 30th](#) and then by [hundreds of riot police](#) on May 1st, who made [over 200 violent arrests](#).

*least 500 of them on campus, on either side of the student encampment.*

**AROUND 1:40 AM** The camp announcer states on the megaphone to quickly regroup, focusing on building a set of human chains at the base of the stairs. *We quickly bustle over to the bottom of the stairwell in an attempt to block cops entering through the lower quad from entering the encampment. As they approach from the north of the quad, they reach the base of the stairwell; we ready ourselves, mobilizing ropes of bodies, moving to stay perpendicular to the approaching corps. They come and go, largely dodging us, heading up to use the greens south of the stairwell as a ramp to the barricade. Students rush to cut the cops off, kettling them into a turtle formation at the base of the court, near student housing.*

**1:52-1:53 AM** The softest rustling as phones slide out of phone pockets, succinctly unlocked, cameras rolling; the even louder rustling of grass as students spread through the lawn.

Chatter, within some groups. Sometimes none.

*For every group of students, one or two were impromptu keepers of record. Several had their cameras set to record with the flash on, announcing their presence; others flashed lights and strobes to illuminate the phalanx, as well as to humiliate, disorient, and frighten. You could smell the cops' desperate aggression, like a pack of starved rabid dogs.*

*Green guns. Black batons held like black guns so hard that they almost materialized into live ammo weaponry by sheer feat of the transformative power of capital. They definitely look as such from far away, and the cops know this.*

The sound of twitchy trigger fingers, or; the sight of buzzing eyes behind a riot helmet, a palpable fear drenched in aftershave, steroids, and a 40mm hand cannon. Strobes continue to disorient. Thank god one of those losers didn't piss his pants and unload on us. We

*outnumber them at least 3:1.*

"They've got guns." A lone student stands directly in front of the police formation with their flash on, presumably recording, as crowds shout "cops go home!" and "peaceful protest!" for precisely one minute before -

One of those losers pisses his pants and they advance from their kettle at the bottom of the stairwell, from the southern summit of the court onto the barricaded stairwell. *This court, named the Court of Philanthropy, is named as such to commemorate the various donors who have given more than \$1 million to the school, where 83 stone plates list the donor names. They look on as the police enact violent repression, in their name, securing their investments.*

The eventual (why-was-it-fucking) inevitable, unmistakable sound of rubber bullets not hitting the ground.

**1:53-1:56 AM** Students, first in a line and now in clumps, disperse, some going home, most regrouping. "Don't run," a student vocalizes, and my legs feel like they have permission to return from God and fall back under my control. People steady, into an organized and purposeful pace, slightly above trotting speed.

The parking lot stairwell fills, as does the barricade once more. Sounds of discordant trotting reverberate throughout the structure. For what looks like more than a thousand people, the movement is well enough organized.

*As I head out down the stairwell to our car, we watch for agitators that may be hiding in the corners. We heard from other members earlier that Zionist counter-protestors were waiting for people to return to their cars to attempt to assault them. We make it to our car and head off to regroup.*

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*\*The following is recollected from press footage, as well as anonymous accounts from others in my immediate protest group.\**

**BEFORE 2:20 AM** The unthinkable happens. Cheer, love, and sweat coagulate in a once-in-a-lifetime moment of unmistakable joy: mere minutes after the failed pincer, the cops were evicted from the UCLA Liberated Zone. The sounds of boots were silenced by the many yawps and yells for celebration, though this seemed to be short-lived. **2:20 AM** *I received a ping on my phone from friends inside the encampment, wide-eyed, they had witnessed a miracle.*

**BEFORE 4 AM** *The police forces seemed to return quicker, and in higher numbers less than an hour thereafter.*

An unconscionable amount of flashbangs all at once, in the air, intended to stun and harm as many as possible.

*In the car, I see on my social media a video of the cops at the encampment: "... for your safety, for your safety" an officer bellows, as he and his gang of cops pelt students with rubber.*

The sound of 5 heads meeting a rubber bullet with courage and strength.

**WELL AFTER 5 AM** The sound of at least 130 arrests.

The all-too-familiar sound of tents being ripped up, the cops' arms twitching, bending in a way that has become muscle memory. A switchblade slides through nylon fabric with precision, a feat of infinitesimal moral character done over and over to the houseless daily, found here today hiding behind on-the-spot revisions of campus code. *I wonder what the scene looked like from the cops' cell phone cameras as they began to take selfies around the plastic rubble; I wonder: do the IOF do the same? - but I don't have to, as the similarities between the IOF and CHP/UCPD/LAPD/LASD are long and deep, even into their respective forms of post-terrorism ritual. Of course, they do. They just can't help document their crimes, like giddy schoolchildren, like the giddy schoolchildren that once existed in Palestine.*

Free Palestine, long live the student

intifada.

Donate to [campus bail funds here](#).

## From Harlem to Palestine: Globalize the Intifada

May 12, 2024

**Statement from the occupation of Hind's Hall at Columbia University. Originally posted on [The New Inquiry](#).**

*In the early morning of April 30, 2024, we liberated Hamilton Hall at Columbia University. Nearly two weeks earlier, hundreds of people had constructed the Gaza Solidarity Encampment on Butler Lawn, under constant threats of police abuse and university discipline. This encampment helped spark a global movement against the role of universities in imperialist-Zionist genocide. By moving from the lawn and liberating a university building, we escalated our tactics to apply greater pressure on the administration and to inspire others to take bold action. Here is our statement:*

We took Hamilton Hall because it belongs to us. We took it because we refuse to remain compliant in the face of an American-led genocide of the Palestinian people.

**We liberated the Hall, and made it Hind's.**

Hind's Hall was named after Hind Rajab, a six-year-old Palestinian girl from Gaza murdered by the Zionist entity on January 29th. Her final hours were spent in a bullet-riddled car, pleading for help into a cell phone, surrounded by dead family members. Twelve days later, her remains and those of her family were discovered alongside the bodies of the two healthcare workers sent to rescue her, their ambulance blasted apart by a Zionist missile.

Hind: kindergartener, daughter, sister, martyr. She and the tens of thousands of other martyrs moved us to act. We are committed to the fight for the total liberation of Palestine, which is no less than the

fight to liberate Harlem from Columbia, the prisoners from the prisons, and the wretched of the earth from Western imperialism.

**Columbia escalated, so we did too.**

Columbia University earned its status as an elite university through colonial plunder—from Harlem to South Africa to Palestine. It grew its \$13.6 billion dollar endowment by investing in corporations like BlackRock, Caterpillar, Google, and Airbnb that facilitate violent land theft and genocide in Palestine and across the Global South. Pro-Palestine students on campus have been protesting tirelessly for Columbia to divest from the business of genocide, only to be met with discipline and retaliation.

Last month, as the situation in Gaza became more dire—with the number of confirmed martyrs climbing above 42,000, millions facing catastrophic famine, and the (now underway) invasion of Rafah impending—Columbia's commitment to repressing student protest against the genocide only intensified. On April 18, President Minouche Shafik called in the NYPD to sweep the first Gaza Solidarity Encampment, carrying out the largest mass arrests on campus since 1968. Shortly after, the administration rejected our demands for divestment and doubled down on its support for the genocidal Zionist entity.

So instead of continuing to entertain bad faith negotiations, we chose to strike at the heart of the prevailing order. We liberated Hind's Hall.

**We are all outside agitators.**

Who are we? Some of us are students under the threat of expulsion. Others are staff, faculty, alumni, and community members. However, inside of Hind's Hall, none of these distinctions mattered. To liberate the building was to tear down the artificial border between "student" and "non-student" imposed by the classist, racist sorting mechanism which determines who deserves a place within the ivory tower and who remains locked outside its gates.

While Columbia continues to displace the Black and brown working class community of Harlem, it criminalizes the very people whose homes it has stolen. While Columbia continues to profit from imperial spoils, it ostracizes and expels students who protest its role in the genocide of the Palestinian people. In the eyes of this occupying force on stolen land, we are all outside agitators. We wear this as a badge of honor.

It was our refusal to accept the terms and categories imposed on us by the university that threatened its power. Our uncompromising commitment to nothing short of full divestment and the total liberation of Palestine threatened the jackals of the university system—administrators, donors, trustees, and talking heads—who work overtime to defang our budding revolution with bread crumb concessions.

We refused to be pacified while the blood of Palestine spills on the streets of Gaza. Instead, we forced Columbia to show the world the iron fist inside its velvet glove.

**NYPD, KKK, IOF, YOU'RE ALL THE SAME!**

On the evening of April 30th, the university placed our entire community under siege. Preparing to raid us, the NYPD and Public Safety locked down the Morningside campus, as well as several blocks of the surrounding Harlem neighborhood. Already having transformed itself into a militarized police fortress over the past few months—with a proliferation of checkpoints, surveillance drones, infrared cameras, and hovering choppers—Columbia became one giant kettle from which no one could exit or enter.

Under threat of arrest, journalists and onlookers alike were herded into buildings, prevented from bearing witness to our brutalization. The NYPD's Strategic Response Group (SRG) violently arrested those defending us outside the building, flinging one protester down the stairs and leaving them unconscious, dragging others away as they tried to help.

were met with less police, about five police cars showed up after at most three minutes. I have some thoughts on why this may have happened. The assembled crowd was dressed in anonymous multi-colored clothing. This wouldn't be particularly suspect if people were seen in twos or threes but a large group of masked people still draws attention. Moving from one location to another in a more dispersed way or meeting up behind the prison without all walking together could have reduced the attention we drew to ourselves on the street. The benefit of not wearing all black means that we don't stand out in a crowd or on the street but if we are the crowd then that benefit is lost. This combined with the fact that there were a good amount of people on the street leads me to believe someone called the police on the group as we walked over. There's no way to know for certain, but, we can learn from the situation and figure out ways to be more discreet when the situation calls for it moving forward.

Free Palestine!  
Solidarity to the struggle at Rockview prison!  
Down with the prisons! Up with the spring!  
Happy May Day!

Photo by [Mike Enerio](#) on [Unsplash](#)

## Report from May Day in Chicago

May 9, 2024

**Report on May Day march and action in so-called Chicago, IL. Originally posted to [Chicago Anti-Report](#).**

On May 1, 2024, a group of rabble rousers and freaks took part in an anarchist May Day parade that stormed through the Fulton Market neighborhood of Chicago. Before leaving Union Park, people danced around a May Pole in costumes, shared food, laughter and music and then hit the streets. The group of about 80 people was tailed by at least 30 squad cars as many people chanted, danced and re-decorated the highly gentrified neighborhood.

This action came together in the midst of four of Chicago's big universities hosting occupations in support of Palestinian liberation as the Genocide continues.

Walking down Randolph street towards the original Haymarket Square, the group antagonized gentrifying Zionists as they sipped their wine in the outdoor restaurants along the boulevards. The group brought noise and commotion to the Google building, Chase Bank, Starbucks and global headquarters of McDonalds — all four companies having known ties with Israel. The march culminated in a stand off with dozens of cops in front of McDonald's Hamburger University, where some protestors were brutalized and arrested.

The cops continue to serve and protect the genocidal actions of the Israeli Occupation Forces and the US government while children die. But, a collective rage is bubbling and comrades all around the world are coming together to fight. Find your people, dance in the streets, create ruins and do everything you can to wreak havoc.

This action is dedicated to the Chicago anarchists, Haymarket Martyrs and all those who have lost their lives in Palestine.

## Tenant Council Confronts Landlord to Demand Repairs in East Bay

May 9, 2024

**Report from Tenant and Neighborhood Councils (TaNC) on recent action and organizing campaign in East Bay area of California.**

On Monday, May 6, Valley Street Tenant Council members confronted landlord BLVD Residential/Byong Yu representatives with documentation and testimony of severe habitability issues at 2341 Valley Street, demanding a clear plan for repairs and compensation.

A caravan of 5 cars left 2341 Valley

Street headed for Tamarack, 1501 Harrison Street, where they joined a group of about 35 other tenants and neighbors, in a room decorated with slogans demanding dignified housing and pictures showing the disrepair at Valley Street.

Last year, Valley Street Tenant Council collectively petitioned the rent board (RAP) over chronic mismanagement and disrepair. Pipe leaks still permeate drywall with mold and pests persist. But that's only the tip of the iceberg — most tenants lack working heat, some now for more than a decade.

In June, July and August of 2021 landlord Byong Yu spent over \$29 million to buy three apartment complexes, a total of 139 residential units, and yet his tenants at Valley Street live in deplorable conditions.

The town hall was mandated by the city to get a conversation started between the tenants and the uncommunicative property management, get clarity about planned repairs, and to negotiate terms for move outs.

Valley St. tenants worked diligently to arrange the town hall. They made sure there was proper tenant representation - they hired Spanish interpretation, brought dinner to feed each other, and prepared an agenda and a clear list of demands.

Darrell, a VSTC member, who has lived at 2341 Valley St. for the past 15 years, kicked off the town hall with a speech emphasizing the goals for the town hall: transparency and a clear plan for how the tenants' demands will be addressed.

"We will take a virtual walk through of the conditions at valley street, documented conditions of inhumane conditions," said Darrell, with images of the disrepair projected behind him. "We are beginning with an open heart and open ears, but we have receipts."

The tenants gave testimonials about the conditions they have been living with, some for over a decade..

"I have been in my apartment for 15 years. I have never had heat, I have had mold, roaches, rats in the building and in my apartment."



Finch treesits, which blocked construction of the MVP for 931 days.



One of the banners at the site of Finn's action read, "Free Palestine No Pipelines No Prisons No Genocide." In his statement describing his reasons for taking action against the MVP, Finn stated, "This place belongs to these creatures just as much as us humans, but we also belong to this place. And this place - our home - is being forever altered by this pipeline. I've been thinking a lot about home. About the 1.7 million Gazans displaced from their homes, as 34,000 have been killed. About the thousands of Native Tribes stripped of their ancestral homelands. About the towns and cities hollowed out of long-time residents to serve as tourist destinations, wealthy enclaves, places for investors to park their money. This same logic is present in this pipeline."

MVP has filed for approval from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to begin operations in late May. The company still has construction left to complete on steep and challenging sections including Poor Mountain, and on May 1, the pipeline ruptured during a pressure test on Bent Mountain in Roanoke County, VA. The Mountain Valley Pipeline is over budget by more than \$4 billion and nearly 6 years behind schedule. The pipeline, if completed, would transport fracked gas across at least 303 miles of Appalachia. The project has a long record of environmental violations, and MVP's permits have been revoked numerous times. In June 2023, the pipeline was fast-tracked by Congress, despite local residents voicing their opposition and concerns. Over the last few months, Mountain Valley Pipeline has

escalated its legal intimidation of pipeline fighters, filing multiple Strategic Lawsuits Against Public Participation (SLAPP suits) and collaborating with local law enforcement to charge protesters with erroneous felonies in order to discourage resistance. The legal intimidation has failed to stop protestors.

Finn's full statement is here:

Why risk arrest? Why risk my name? Why devote my time and energy, to be here protesting this pipeline in the backwoods of Appalachia? The truth is I've lost the ability to look away. And it no longer makes sense to be anywhere else.

Because I've walked these hills and know they belong to the deer, the foxes, the bears, the voles. Because I've breathed this mountain air and know it belongs to the songbirds and raptors. Because I've navigated these waters and know they belong to the beavers and fish. This place belongs to these creatures just as much as us humans, but we also belong to this place. And this place - our home - is being forever altered by this pipeline.

I've been thinking a lot about home. About the 1.7 million Gazans displaced from their homes, as 34,000 have been killed. About the thousands of Native Tribes stripped of their ancestral homelands. About the towns and cities hollowed out of long-time residents to serve as tourist destinations, wealthy enclaves, places for investors to park their money. This same logic is present in this pipeline.

The Mountain Valley Pipeline is razing these mountains and destroying this ecosystem, transforming life for all those who live here for the sake of the absolute comfort and convenience for an increasingly small subset of the current generations. I'm here because I stand opposed to the view that our ability to do this gives us a right to do this.

I'm here because - as they watch

disasters grow larger and the bleaching of coral reefs, as they watch rivers run dry and species go extinct - younger generations are looking at the world and questioning if anyone cares about their home. About their future. I've seen this question in my niece's face. I'm here so that I can tell her I do.

## Report on May Day Noise Demonstration Outside of Juvenile Justice Center in Philadelphia, PA

May 10, 2024

Report on May Day noise demonstration in so-called Philadelphia, PA. Originally posted to *Philly Anti-Capitalist*.

After a lapse of three years anarchists held their own May Day demonstration. May first is an anarchist celebration of spring, remembrance, rebellion and it's important to me that the left doesn't completely co-opt this anarchic holiday. I'm heartened that anarchists have organized our own way of commemorating and celebrating the arrival of May. I encourage anyone who doesn't know the history of May Day to look up the Haymarket Affair in Chicago and how anarchists across the world have celebrated.

The May Day demonstration was held behind the Juvenile Justice Center (a prison for kids) in West Philly. A group of us walked over from a nearby meeting location, and upon arriving shot fireworks, lit flares, howled against the police, and made a lot of noise. The kids locked inside could be seen silhouetted against the frosted windows, banging in response to our loud presence. The police arrived very shortly afterward and the crowd dispersed. Two people were detained for about an hour and released without charges.

The police's arrival was surprisingly fast. Previous demonstrations at the same prison have lasted longer and

Inside Hind's Hall, we faced stun grenades, a rogue gunshot from a trigger happy pig, batons and circular saws, face stomping, head trauma, fractured bones, sprains and cuts and bruises. Once we were in police custody, they stole hijabs off the heads of Muslim women, sexually harassed our gender-marginalized comrades, threatened and ridiculed us.

Stop Cop City! Stop Cop University!

This militarized raid was orchestrated by Rebecca Weiner, faculty at Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs and the Deputy Pig of the NYPD Counterterrorism Bureau, which maintains an office in Tel Aviv. This triangulation between the university, the NYPD, and the Zionist military parallels the "deadly exchange" called out by our comrades in the Stop Cop City movement as they fight to shut down GILEE (Georgia International Law Enforcement Exchange), a program sponsored by Georgia State University which cross-trains U.S. police departments with the IOF.

Faculty like Weiner and programs like GILEE draw a direct line from university campuses to Cop City, the facility modeled after an IOF training ground in occupied Palestine, a "Little Gaza," where advanced strategies for urban warfare and dispossession are refined. These laboratories of domination are proliferating across the country in an inexorable march from Cop City to Cop Nation. There are currently sixty-nine Cop Cities in the U.S. that have either already been built or are in the process of construction, with universities such as Columbia and Georgia State playing a key role in facilitating the knowledge transfers that make them possible. Let it be known that the police and the university are mutually reinforcing apparatuses of the fascist state!

United in struggle, united in victory.

Just 20 blocks uptown that same night, the NYPD brutalized our comrades at the City College of New York. In the hours after our

concurrent arrests, we were held in the same cells but were not subject to the same treatment—CUNY's arrestees were slapped with felony charges and held for three days, while we were charged with misdemeanors and released in less than 48 hours.

We reject these hierarchical divisions imposed on us by the state and understand our mobilizations as part of a unified whole. We insist that CUNY and Columbia are one campus. Our solidarity with the CUNY rebels is unconditional, as is our solidarity with those who took to the streets and cheered us on at the gates. We have not forgotten that the one thing that kept Columbia from raiding the '68 occupations was the threat of Harlem rioting. Similarly, working class Palestinian-led crowds kept us safe by becoming a near-constant fixture outside Columbia's gates.

In an attempt to divide us and fragment our movement, police departments and universities have only crystallized the power we hold when we are unified. In the fight for total liberation, an injury to one is an injury to us all.

Off of campus and into the streets.

The enemy may have dismantled our communes, but we know our struggle has only just begun. Just as the Vietnamese revolutionaries ignited the cycle of student revolt in '68, the Palestinian people inspire us to continue building on the insurrectionary energy incubated in the encampments. The Student Intifada will become a revolutionary force only when it succeeds in integrating itself with the struggles of the surrounding community and expands the popular cradle of resistance beyond the campus and into the streets.

What we experienced is nothing compared to what the Palestinian people have endured for 76 years and seven months. Bombs on schools, missiles on hospitals, state-of-the-art machines designed to slaughter children by the hundreds and dissolve the skin from their faces, bulldozers and mass graves, starvation, dehydration, imprisonment, torture, displacement, death—this will be

our legacy, unless those of us within the belly of the beast fight to end it.

We chose action, and you must too—again, again, until the weight of our collective action and refusal dismantles the prisons and all our prisoners flood the streets.

UNTIL VICTORY!

## For Those Who Would Act When Genocide is Ignored: A Report Back from the UC Santa Cruz Encampment

May 11, 2024

Critical report and reflection on the launch of a student encampment in solidarity with Palestine at the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC).

photo via [Alex Darocy on Indybay.org](https://www.indybay.org)

"The lifeblood of our encampment has been the act of seeing what needs to be done and doing it, without waiting for permission or instruction. We could not have built such outstanding supporting services for ourselves, nor could we have addressed evolving violent situations, otherwise. GRAB SOME PEOPLE AND GET IT DONE" - *How We Can Win* from UCLA

## May 1st, Day One

Late morning, around 50 people set up a few dozen tents in UC Santa Cruz's Quarry Plaza, a student quad that is the closest thing on campus that students have to a central hub. The Plaza itself is made up of a wide walking path with a bookstore, a cafe, and several student commons buildings surrounding it. It is in this wide walking path that student activists set up camp. The first few hours were busy and energetic, food arrives, wood pallets and traffic cones are set up to form a basic perimeter. Banners are dropped and

morale is high thanks to a large May Day rally of hundreds which gathers in the parking lot near the main entrance of the Plaza. Set-up continues throughout the day, with more tents and people arriving, the makeshift barricades being bolstered with fencing, A-frames, and metal concert barriers.

A “people’s library” of zines and donated books pops up, a robust medic station is created. Student Leadership begins appointing more and more people as “security” and handing out yellow vests. An effort at security culture is made via a mask policy within the encampment, and the widespread use of “code names” for participants. All the surrounding buildings remained open to the public the first day. Much fuss is made about the fire marshal code, and so a walkway remains open on one side of the encampment for passersby to move through. University admin and staff linger on the sidelines, some talking to student organizers. The day moves fast, several “community meetings” are called, moderated by megaphone-toting leadership, and there are some teach-ins about Palestine and community events.

A few cop cars roll by on the main road, and every now and then a campus security vehicle stations itself in the parking lot. An effort is made to cover up the security cameras in the area. The Graduate Student Commons, which is a small lounge located above the cafe, is left open and a mix of grad students and campers stay there late into night, taking advantage of the kitchenette and restrooms inside. The campers eat dinner, everyone is provided a tent and sleeping bags, and the camp retires for the night, although many stay up late chatting, and a security detail of yellow vests stays at the camp entrances throughout the night.

## Day Two

A cold, quiet morning starts off day two of the encampment. Half a dozen security people sip coffee and wander around, and eventually the rest of the campers begin to wake up. Through the day programming continues with more teach-ins.

Organizers hold some low-key meetings in the corners of the encampment.

The camp really expands day two, from 50 to over a hundred campers that trickled in through the day. Out of necessity, the camp expands farther down the quarry path. More barricade materials are scavenged from the surrounding areas. Student leadership really starts exerting influence, with more and more concern displayed for respectability, including much anxiety expressed over graffiti, banners, and slogans that do not fit into their image.

The graduate student commons, which at this point has been de-facto occupied, becomes a place for meetings, and some tents are moved onto the balcony. The surrounding buildings, including the bookstore and the student resource centers, are closed due to the protests. That night, the cafe is briefly opened but leadership shuts down the idea to occupy it. There is also a push to expand the camp into the front parking lot, but that is shut down too in a moderated community forum. Police remain a no-show, but it is reported that under covers are patrolling campus, and admin continues to hover. A sense of fear and anxiety is palpable, as organizers stress about what actions may or may not mean retaliation from the University. A late night meeting, campers retire for the night, and security takes up the nighttime watch.

## Day Three

By day three the camp has begun to seriously fall into routine. Camp continues to grow. Some reporters and what look like independent filmmakers show up. More organizer meetings, a de-arrest training, and more teach-ins on the patio of the closed cafe, which has been dubbed “The People’s University.” Leadership organizes a basic tier of risk tolerance, and reorganizes some of the tents to reflect this, so that those who are willing to be arrested are in tents closer to the perimeter. Tents are also moved in anticipation of possible rain.

Here’s some analysis about the first few days of the encampment, which at time of writing is still going strong into its seventh day.

## Analysis

It is incredibly important to stress the fact that this encampment is not an autonomous space. This action was planned and continues to be controlled by the local chapter of Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP), who have been in close communication with UCSC administration, and who are devoted to tactics of respectability politics, peace policing, and non-escalation. As of time of writing, the UCSC encampment is suffering from “slow death by committee,” failing to escalate, expand, or act boldly. [Editor’s note: According to a [press release posted to Indymay.org](#), talks between the encampment representatives and campus administration has broken down, and demonstrators are expected a police raid.]

At every turn, actions by non-organizers at the encampment have been discouraged and micro-managed, and used as justifications for leadership to consolidate their power by being the loudest and most “reasonable” voices. Echoing every single report back we’ve read from around the country, we can’t wait around to decide everything in a meeting, that will just slow us down, and now is not the time to give a platform to those who are too timid to act. The hesitancy of leadership towards autonomous action is exactly the kind of attitude that creates a culture that is too nervous of the threat of violence to stand in solidarity with Palestine. The only language the colonizer understands is militancy, we can’t afford to deny that right now. It is impossible to peacefully end a genocide, getting free is a struggle, and we shouldn’t condemn the strategies of others fighting for liberation alongside us.

SJP leadership expresses hostility towards the University of California (UC) in their slogans and speeches, but are in fact in close communication with them. The original parameters of the encampment were communicated

Finally, while camp as a physical location was lost, camp as a zeitgeist was proliferated by the intensity of the spectacle that was created. Hundreds of students and community supporters filled the streets to watch, participate in, support, and be forced to consider the demand for a free Gaza and the free use of public space the encampment implies. Every action like this shifts the popular common sense and leaves behind dozens or hundreds of people who know in their bodies what it feels like to hold their ground against the police. These lessons do not go away when we go back to work and class. They stay with us and we keep them in our back pocket for the next time it’s necessary to push back together: whether against genocide, an unjust war, against the cops killing yet another Black person, or against the nihilistic march toward climate apocalypse.

## What is a University Anyway?

The university promotes a certain ideology of itself and fills every visible surface of campus with propaganda that reinforces this ideology. We must see this for what it is: the university is doing politics, it’s attempting to control the terms of the debate and hold onto power by promoting a certain self definition.

Within this ideology, a university is a supportive environment for learning and nurturing young minds, and for promoting free inquiry, free speech, and contributing in important ways to the progress of society. It’s an environment of co-creation among equals, where the needs and creative impulses of students are nurtured.

While elements of this ideology may in certain moments prove true (some students may genuinely feel nurtured and may learn during their time there, insights that contribute to society can do and develop there) the main purpose of the university at this time is to contribute to the development of the economy by working in concert with corporate backers to create workers-especially a higher

educated, specialized classes of workers-as well as the research insights necessary to promote the profits of corporations. Ultimately, it exists to make money.



The university is therefore a strategic nexus of private and public interests. One reason that the university occupations have been so swiftly repressed is because administrators are aware of the encampments’ impacts upon the economic activity of the university system. This also exposes how fundamentally alienated the university environment is: even a simple protest encampment perched on the fringes of campus is enough to draw out the riot cops. Clearly, this is not an institution open to the non-normative creative impulses of students.

Awareness of these realities are strategically important for a few different reasons. When we see the university as an artery for capital, we can ask ourselves different questions about how to strategically confront or seek to disrupt it, rather than getting caught up in endless debates common to the logic of the university: free speech, rights, and demands. We can instead ask ourselves: what impact will this tactic have upon the ability of the university to function properly (i.e., to generate profits)?

Specifically, demands about “divestment” must take into account the reality that the University of Arizona, the largest employer in Tucson, is deeply intertwined with the second largest employer in Tucson, Raytheon. The University cannot actually divest from Raytheon and the other weapons manufacturers with which it is intertwined without ceasing to be the university that it currently is. Such a divestment would require a fundamental, even ontological, shift in the nature of the University.

As such, this demand is something quite more than a typical demand: it marks a horizon beyond the frame of the negotiation table. As such, it is endlessly escalatable. We can always continue to demand further divestment, until we ultimately accomplish the total rebirth of the university as a public structure truly serving the needs of the people.

[1] A quote, or paraphrase, of Frantz Fanon, from *The Wretched of the Earth*.

photos: [Arizona Palestine Solidarity Alliance on Instagram](#)

## MVP Protester Locks Himself To Construction Equipment, Highlights Connection Between Appalachia and Palestine

May 10, 2024

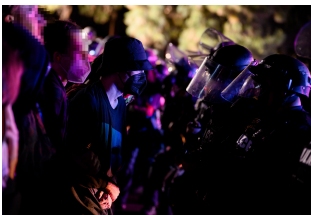
Action report on lock-down against the Mountain Valley Pipeline at a worksite on Poor Mountain in so-called Virginia.

Early Wednesday morning, pipeline fighter Finn locked himself to a side boom on a Mountain Valley Pipeline worksite on Poor Mountain in Montgomery County, VA, preventing MVP construction at the site for 11 hours.

“Why risk arrest? Why risk my name? Why devote my time and energy, to be here protesting this pipeline in the backwoods of Appalachia?” Finn asked. “The truth is I’ve lost the ability to look away. And it no longer makes sense to be anywhere else.”

At the base of the mountain, nearby where the pipeline easement crosses Yellow Finch Rd, a rally of people gathered to show their support for Finn’s action. They held signs with messages including, “WATER IS LIFE” and “SHUT IT DOWN.” The rally was held near the site of the former Yellow





generative and should continue; this is how we learn.

## What Winning Looks Like

In a situation of asymmetrical fighting in which the police and those who direct them will almost always, up until a critical moment of systemic breakdown, be able to overwhelm us with the level of organized violence they can deploy (with their armies of militarized cops, riot gear, SWAT vehicles, chemical munitions, backed up by jails, prisons, courts, etc.) it can be difficult to notice when our tactics are successful and when we have achieved medium and short term goals. On the surface, it can look like the police always win. This illusion is sometimes promoted by media and communications teams within our movements, who are quick to put the focus on the violence of the police and those holding societal power.

While it's necessary to draw out the faultlines (or contradictions) within society and show the population that the power of those who run the world ultimately relies upon force—not any supposed “social contract” or democratic “will of the people”—this discursive strategy can lead to us talking mostly about police and their violence instead of movements and their power. It can make us feel like the police always win.

The university encampment as a tactic has spread throughout the country in large part because it has proven to be successful and the participants have proven themselves powerful. From images of hundreds squaring off against cops, mountainous barricades, five-gallon water jug bonks, and university architecture remade into a vision of a free Palestine and free world, displays of our power have built this movement. We must figure out for ourselves what small wins look like, set short term and medium term goals, and celebrate what we achieve. Meanwhile, we need to reveal the police as both violent and stupid (memetically bonking them is a perfect way of doing this) as often as we can.

On the night before the uprising, the encampment was evacuated an hour before curfew following two warnings by a bootlicking administrator. The next night, when police, sans riot gear, initially approached camp and began taking it apart from the outside, those within threw things at them, held tight lines, and fortified barricades that both made a police incursion difficult and dangerous, and prevented them from seeing what was going on within some parts of camp. Meanwhile, frontliners in the encampment made their intentions clear by chanting, “If you come in, we will fight you!” telling the cops what they already suspected: attempting to enter camp would create a violent shitshow, a media spectacle, and, eventually, a legal nightmare. Because those inside the camp showed their force, the cops stepped back and held a line for hours past curfew. For that moment, this is what winning looks like.

Next, when police advanced on the crowd in the street, that crowd held a line, preventing the police from easily achieving their goals. The police had been forced to don riot gear: no small victory against the Tucson police, who prefer to project an image of liberal, first amendment protectors who respect the first amendment. Instead, they were forced to appear in the morning news like the occupying army that they really are. When we force them to make the violence upon which they rely obvious, and especially when we can do so without getting people too badly hurt, we've won.

Tucson police were forced to shoot protesters with rubber bullets, deploy chemical munitions, and generally behave like violent assholes. This led to hundreds of faculty and staff signing a petition calling out the violence of the police: “Under the cloak of enforcing a legal curfew, you violated not only the primary directive of caring for students in your charge but also turned a peaceful protest into a violent confrontation.” Any time liberals and other fence-sitters are forced to draw lines like this, we've won.

to administration, and admin has laid out certain ground rules that SJP is committed to adhering to. This has led to an incredible misplacement of priorities, such as the obsession over following fire marshal code, and the refusal to occupy new buildings because it might mean a police response.

SJP knows they are being peace police, and have excuses at the ready. Ultimately, they are liberals practicing counterinsurgency on themselves. They perpetuate the “outside agitator” narrative that divides students and non-students, and absorb the energy of new participants by handing them safety vests and encouraging a shared power trip.

The encampment is not prepared for police brutality. They want to grow, but are paralyzed by the fear that doing so will invite police violence (which is coming regardless). They want to hold space and prepare for escalation at some magical future point. Our best chance to escalate is now, before the police come. There is no time to wait, and the time for words is over.

No flimsy agreement or negotiated space will keep the police from coming forever; we need to prepare for them to come by taking space while we can. We keep us safe not by policing each other but by having each others backs and being unified in our shared goals, if not always in our tactics. We keep us safe, not the cops, not the University.

FREE PALESTINE and DEATH TO WHITE SUPREMACY. Shame on organizers for chanting “Globalize The Intifada” while simultaneously negotiating with the occupying force.

We believe that these dynamics are likely present in many of the current Palestine Solidarity Encampments around the country and world, and that describing and naming the counterinsurgency tactics of organizers can help us find new ways forward on the path of ending colonialism and genocide in Palestine.

Suggested Reading: [Peace Police are](#)

[Police](#)

## Updates from the Liberated Zone at the University of Washington: Fascists, Chuds, and Barricades

May 11, 2024

Report from [The Nightly](#) about the ongoing encampment in solidarity with Palestine at the University of Washington (UW) and defense of the space from the far-Right.

Clashes were expected Tuesday night when a talk given by Charlie Kirk, the golden boy of that [specific alt-right subdivision that's really into tailored suits](#), lured hordes of smirking chuds to the HUB. In preparation for the worst- a fascist assault on the Liberated Zone, which the UWPD could have taken as an excuse to sweep the area- anarchists made shields and donned helmets and goggles.

The UF recruited a bunch of people to wear green pieces of tape, so that's also something. Luckily, it turned out that the Kirk supporters, and chuds more broadly, weren't all that interested in actually fighting a war. The Liberated Zone got heckled by a bunch of drunk frat boys and one old man trying to recreate January 6th at the barricade, but in a cosmopolitan setting like Seattle, that's just another Tuesday night.

Though there were minimal injuries, the fact that the University of Washington (UW) chose to let fascists speak on campus in the first place is telling. The situation could have easily devolved similarly to the 2017 Milo Yiannopoulos event, in which [counter-protesters and reactionaries clashed in Red Square, leading to a shooting of a protester](#).

What is notable is not the fascists, who are mainly misguided cowards, but the university administration who chose to put hundreds of students at risk. Not only do speakers like this spread violently

Zionist, racist, and transphobic rhetoric, but the kinds of people they bring onto campus are those the UW had to have known would antagonize or attack protestors at the Liberated Zone. It's not far-fetched to believe UW was hoping for a violent outcome. A clash would give UWPD an excuse to enter the area and destroy the protest that has become a thorn in the UW's side (though not a very large one, due to the lack of escalation).

President Cauce and her henchmen (and henchwomen, go girlbosses!) truly do not care if UW students live or die. Though they'll smile and tell us pretty lies, human life has no value to them. They remain complacent in genocide, they refuse to take a stand against fascism, and they value their students only as economic and political pawns. Cauce is a killer. The administration's complacency has a body count, and they won't hesitate to increase it.

For now, the Liberated Zone needs to build on the experiences of Tuesday Night and continue preparing to defend the community. They should continue to stock barricades, shields, goggles, helmets, gas masks, and other provisions that will be needed in the event of a violent clash with police. We already know UW will call the cops on its own students before it gives in to demands, so if these demands are ever going to be met, we need to be prepared to fight off the pigs. The Liberated Zone should also have a deep conversation about the crucial role that autonomous action played in Tuesday's defense. If fascists had decided to attack the LZ, as many anticipated, anarchists would have been largely the only ones prepared to defend it. Yet this movement is so dominated by the UF, autonomous voices are almost completely ignored. As one anarchist said, “It feels like we need to fight to have a presence in it at all, and at the same time they depend on us to do their dirty work.”

Capitulating to neoliberal forces that would rather feed you to fascists than grant your demands is futile. UW's violence trumps all

destruction that protesters could possibly cause, and condemning escalation protects no one but Cauce. Inaction perpetuates oppression. In conversations about escalation, protecting the most vulnerable means maintaining safe spaces (for example, keeping some distance between escalations and the encampment), not escalating at all. UW students need to remember that attending this school puts them in a position of privilege and stop treating non-students like their voices don't matter. This narrow perspective is what has allowed nonsensical arguments like, "Escalation harms the most marginalized," to flourish within the UF. Inaction itself harms marginalized groups because it perpetuates their marginalization—a fact that would probably be better observed if the UF valued the input of those without the privilege to attend a prestigious school.

Now is the time for radical autonomous action and community-building. UW is a neoliberal, genocidal, and settler-colonial institution. Autonomous destruction is the only way forward. Bring them hell.

## **“All Spectators Are Cowards Or Traitors”: Reflections on the University of Arizona Gaza Solidarity Encampments**

May 11, 2024

Report and analysis from *Living and Fighting* about protests and encampments at the University of Arizona.

On Tuesday, April 30 and into the early morning of May 1, 2024, hundreds of people, fulfilling different roles and moving fluidly between them, collectively constructed an encampment at the University of Arizona, raised a perimeter around it, barricaded that perimeter, held off a police advance, launched a supportive rally of several hundred people on the public avenue west of the

encampment, and then formed a defensive line in the street to protect the encampment from a second police advance. Throughout the night, engagement with the police escalated from encampment participants' willingness to negotiate, to a rejection of all attempts to quell the occupation through soft power tactics. This included rebuffing all bids for conversation from the police and administrators: all of their endeavors to negotiate or communicate were responded to with chants of, "Fuck you pig!" When sheriff's deputies with helmets and shields approached the camp, and when they later attempted to expand their lines to surround it, camp occupiers pelted them with water bottles and other projectiles, in some cases causing the police to fall back in response.

How was all this possible? Just twenty-four hours prior, an encampment on the University of Arizona Mall was abandoned an hour before the administration-mandated "curfew" by self-appointed leaders within the encampment who announced that they'd come to a "democratic decision" to leave. Camp was packed up and dozens of people who had been building barricades for hours resigned themselves to taking them down and going home.

In the span of one day, the movement escalated from toothless confusion into a force capable of acting with discipline and clarity to engage the police in direct confrontation, rally a supportive population of hundreds to its flank, and make calculated and decisive tactical calls to avoid mass arrest. In the end, only four people were arrested and all charged with low level misdemeanors, despite the continual and semi-public commitment of felonious activity throughout the night (several who were not arrested, however, did sustain injuries from rubber bullets, some of which are serious).

The outcome was so spectacularly successful that the president of the police union went on the local news to decry the inability of prosecutors to successfully charge anyone. "This just encourages that kind of activity," he said. Our conviction is

that, in this final point, he is correct.

This essay is an attempt to draw some strategic and tactical lessons from the successes of April 30-May 1, 2024, to identify potential areas of growth, and to contribute to the accelerated learning process that people of conscience moved by the ongoing genocide in Gaza and to forcefully confront the violence inherent in American society—are currently engaged in. American universities, and increasingly universities around the world, have quickly shifted from serving as mainly a loci for the proliferation of capitalist values to simultaneously functioning as a site in which the tactics and strategies of creative insurgency are rapidly developing. We hope to deepen this dynamic.

On Tuesday afternoon, participants arrived at the new encampment, located (with rich symbolism) in an olive grove on the northeastern corner of University of Arizona's Main Gate area. They peppered a variety of signs and banners throughout the newly constructed "liberated zone," including one that read "All Spectators Are Cowards Or Traitors." [1]

This bold assertion, likely painted by one individual, nonetheless captured an affective shift on the part of the students and non-students present at the encampment that night. In stark contrast to the endless handwringing about ensuring that those who were unwilling to take on the associated risks of participation felt free to stand aside, the presence of this sign indicated a stark escalation: in the midst of a genocide, there are no spectators, only cowards and traitors.

Some of those who attended previous Gaza solidarity actions at the university experienced stark dissonance between the calculation of risk on the part of many of the students and activists and the reality of the situation in Gaza: low-level misdemeanor charges and one night in jail paled in comparison to being bombed while asleep in one's home.



This dissonance between the felt conditions of life in America and the felt conditions of life in Gaza may be the most pronounced difficulty that solidarity activists here must seek to address. If would-be insurgents in the U.S. do not, on a substantive human level, understand the stakes of the fight, they'll be unwilling to make sacrifices for it. And conversely, tangible human connection to the ongoing genocide is the most powerful motivator driving American students and activists toward a willingness to take risks. At least one major condition that drove the potency of the movement against the Vietnam War (including causing it to develop into its militant, armed wings) was direct communication that became possible between the Vietcong and other Vietnamese people and American activists. Delegations of Vietnamese people were able to establish direct lines of communication with the anti-war movement and share with them both strategies learned in the midst of guerrilla war and the human toll the war was taking on their people—in other words, they shared the affective urgency of the stakes of the situation.

Throughout the evening, as participants built and fortified barricades, held their lines, and fended off police incursions, those on the megaphone were people who demonstrated a direct and immediate connection to Palestine, and who continually reframed aloud the stakes of the fight. "We do not negotiate with an administration and a police force that participates in murdering thousands of children in their sleep," they proclaimed. "We are here for the people of Gaza, who are being murdered and buried under rubble." These are not direct quotes, but summaries offered in an attempt to convey the sense of urgency and stakes continually

broadcast to those within the encampment.

The successes of the evening stemmed largely from these felt, emotional interventions, and the way they were able to displace (while not directly confronting) tendencies within the camp that lacked the clarity to push the fight forward.

On the night of Thursday, April 25, students at Arizona State University in Tempe, Arizona, occupied the front lawn of their university, successfully bringing the Gaza Solidarity encampment movement to Arizona. Their efforts quickly led to a more comradely version of the competition between the two universities' sports teams: if ASU can do it, then UA better catch up.

The morning after the ASU encampment was broken up and seventy-two participants arrested, networks previously established between Palestinian solidarity activists in the two cities conveyed the story to people in Tucson: protest leaders asked participants to separate themselves into a "green" group (low risk) and "red group" (high risk). Green participants left the encampment or stood aside and watched as red participants linked arms and were passively arrested.

The week between the ASU mass arrest and the UA encampment saw ASU participants entirely caught up in jail support, post-arrest needs, and endless meetings. It also resulted in the least risk-averse element facing life chaos and confusion as they spent days sleep-deprived from a night in jail, locked out of their dorm rooms by administration, in jail support meetings, and the like, instead of showing up the next day to push further escalation. Meaningful mass action, a new encampment or otherwise, has not re-emerged at the time of this writing a week and a half later.

The question on the mind of some UA participants then became: how can the green zone participants contribute in a meaningful way to the encampment while not risking more than they'd bargained for?

As the 10:30 p.m. curfew approached on Tuesday night, UA administrators explained to encampment leaders that if they didn't want to get arrested, they could stand behind the forming police line east of the encampment. Instead, some within the encampment spread the idea of holding a rally on Park Avenue, just west of the encampment, which police had closed off to traffic, forming a protective flank for the encampment. Green zone participants, under the legally protective cover of holding a rally on the sidewalk and the street, therefore offered a buffer that allowed those within the encampment to flee and blend in if they were unable to hold camp. Instead of police encircling and arresting in one place all those they knew to be responsible for the most militant actions, a subset of the protesters decided to blur the lines between the two camps, allowing more combative actions to develop with relative safety.

## **Neither Arrestable Nor Non-Arrestable**

All week, a dichotomy had developed in meetings between those campers willing and unwilling to be arrested. Several times a day people would be asked to put their hands up if they were or were not amenable to going to jail. This contributed to a tactical confusion that ultimately benefited our opponents: by equating those with the highest threshold for risk with the willingness, or even certainty, of ending up in the hands of the police, it created a situation where the movement was likely to be stymied by a mass arrest situation that took the least risk-averse element out of circulation, at least for the evening. While risk-averse participants are absolutely necessary for advancing a struggle beyond the limitations of what the establishment can ignore (roles like supply runs, jail support, media, funding, and others must be fulfilled), in most U.S. protest movements these days (urban uprisings excepted) it's the lack of combatants that prevents their development.